

THE READER

A REVIEW OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

No. 177, Vol. VII.

Saturday, May 19, 1866.

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{ Stamped, Threepence.

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ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.—
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be held on MONDAY, MAY 28, at One o'clock, at HURLING-
TON HOUSE, PICCADILLY, Sir R. I. MURCHISON,
Bart., in the Chair.

The DINNER will take place at WILLIS'S ROOMS on the
same day at Half-past Six. Dinner charge, One Guinea; pay-
able at the door, or Tickets to be had at the Office of the Society,
15 Whitehall Place, S.W.

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time). TUESDAY, MAY 22, Half-past Three. Trio, C Minor, Herr
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parallel ends when "the heir of his name had made his cause triumph;" or, as we should prefer to say, when "the heir of his cause had made his name triumph." The two together were powerful enough to carry a particular individual to supreme dominion. But there they stopped. "It was no longer possible for Augustus to renew the work of Cæsar: fourteen years of civil war had exhausted the strength of the nation and used up the characters; the men imbued with the great principles of the past were dead; the survivors had alternately served all parties; to succeed, Augustus himself had made peace with the murderers of his adoptive father; the convictions were extinct; and the world, longing for rest, no longer contained the elements which would have permitted Cæsar, as was his intention, to re-establish the Republic in its ancient splendour and its ancient forms, but on new principles."

Cæsar, like Napoleon I., was enabled by circumstances to show a degree of versatility which may be possessed, but has never been displayed by the successors of either. The latter took a pride in dating his decrees for the regulation of the Paris theatres from Moscow; and Cæsar, "in the midst of the most perilous enterprises, found time to correspond with men of influence, and even to read poems which Cicero sent him, to whom he sent back his opinions and criticisms; his mind was incessantly occupied with the events which were passing in Rome." The first of Emperors, however, more certainly surpassed his antitype in the graces of style, and probably in historical fidelity. We know his campaigns almost entirely from his own narration. To reproduce that narration is all that has remained; and he who can command the spade of France, as well as its pen and its sword, to investigate battle-fields and siege operations, closes up ditches and tunnels with a conviction of "the rigorous accuracy of Cæsar in describing the countries he passed over, and the works he caused to be executed." It will enhance the reputation of the author for good sense, even if he does not gain the suffrages of every scholar and critic, that he has fixed the port of embarkation for the second descent on Britain at Boulogne, and the landing-place to be the beach between Walmer and Deal. The reasons are long and technical; nor can we dispute them. These names are familiar to British ears, and will hold their ground in those school-boy stories of England which must determine the faith of the majority. To support the old tradition by new arguments is in thorough keeping with every principle of the book. A declaration from the lips in favour of the treaties of 1815 would scarcely have been more startling than charts by an Imperial draughtsman to show the Roman landing at St. Leonards, or Romney Marsh, or Hythe. We are reminded that the last flotilla of invasion was still collected at Boulogne. May we infer that even dictates of military expediency will ever give way to the calls of historic enthusiasm, should it be necessary for one who is not "the instigator of profound perturbations in society, but only their indispensable pilot," to select an insular battle-ground for his legions?

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and of the *coup de état* of '52. There is a stab for Moreau, and condemnation for the ancient aristocracy. Can we fail to trace allusion to a recent novel in the words: "Man struggling with difficulties which seem insurmountable, and conquering them by his genius, offers a spectacle always worthy of our admiration, and this admiration will be the more justified, according to the greater disproportion between the end and the means"? But the art with which all this is brought about might have been sufficient to veil the hidden meaning, were it the work of any other hand. We seem to hear the voice of Pythagoras claiming the arms of Euphorbus as once his own. Yet there is no attempt to divine the future. Conscious that he stands at the commencement of a new era, he declares that all his wisdom is summed up in recognizing that the era is new. We feel that the author has really forgot himself, as an author should, in the past about which he has to write—that Cæsar is no mere cloak for unofficial manifestoes. The schoolboy may find his task easier after the labours of the Imperial scholar; and if Gibbon found his service with the Militia useful towards a comprehension of many a well-fought field, the experience of Magenta and Solferino, to say nothing of a thousand bloodless marshallings in arms, must not be disregarded as of no account. We are not justified in looking at this "History of Julius Cæsar" as a political romance. It is no hallucination of a Sovereign to discover a singular resemblance between the present state of society and that which preceded, accompanied, or followed the introduction of Christianity. Those epochs cannot be too often pondered by the student of history. The amount of civilization to which ancient Gaul had arrived; the influence of that mixture of blood and race which the preponderance of a single city effected; the causes of decay which infested from the outset the fabric of Augustus; the overthrow of so many nationalities; and the eradication for so many centuries of that predominant motive of European convulsions;—all these problems are suggested, without any Gordian effort of solution. We hear the voice of authority, but of an authority which honestly tries to read the signs of the times. We are conducted, not driven; reminded that it is a successful man who speaks; one who, if born, has not always been clothed, in the purple. It is a pleading, but to an audience which by distance and independence is invested with some of the attributes of posterity; and which, like posterity, can pass no final verdict until the end of the artist has given the final crown and seal to his labours.

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THE lapse of more than twenty years since Mr. McCulloch completed his gigantic scheme of the "Geographical Dictionary" has, as the editor of this new edition well observes, in a short and modest preface, brought with it changes neither few nor unimportant. "Whole kingdoms have disappeared from the political map of the globe; empires have refixed their boundaries, and nations have reformed their existence." To register not only these innovations, but those also which modern science and modern discovery have introduced, is the duty Mr. Martin has undertaken. No better person could possibly have been found, judging *a priori*, than the author of "The Statesman's Year-Book" for such a task; and the way in which it has been performed must add considerably to the reputation both of the editor, and of the publishing house which has selected and supported him. The present volume consists of more than 600 closely-printed pages

arranged in double columns. It makes no pretensions to mention every locality of which the latitude and longitude has been ascertained; such a plan belongs more to a Gazetteer; but the longer and shorter articles are judiciously intermingled; the eye is not offended with a mere catalogue of names, and the attention need not be distracted by the necessity, if we wish to devote an hour or so to the perusal of the book, of rapidly turning our minds from one subject of interest to another. There is a general impression that dictionaries of all kinds must be very dull reading. We must confess, ourselves, to a weakness for dictionaries; the principal objection lies not in the matter, but in the type. This is one which cannot of course be removed, but waiving that, we know of no other class of books so certain to present new ideas and new information whenever we take them up, and which, without the formality of express manuals, are so likely to keep us abreast with the age, either by means of their own accuracy or, indirectly, by compelling us to go through the mental process of considering how far things have altered since they have been written, and how far the writer has followed old accounts without making for himself the proper inquiries, and the corrections which our own more local and special knowledge would have enabled him to effect. Blemishes of the latter kind must be expected in every work of the sort, but without wishing to drag little errors into light, we cannot conceal our astonishment at some of the information which has been allowed to deform the article on "Cambridge." It errs both by omission and by commission, and is the less excusable because accurate guide-books for either of our great University towns are neither rare or expensive. Thus "the chief supply of water is derived from a spring 3m. distant, and conveyed by an aqueduct, under some of the principal streets, to a public conduit in the market-place. For this the town is indebted to Hobson, &c." Hobson's conduit was long ago removed to the outskirts of the town, and Cambridge has been supplied for some years past by soft water drawn from reservoirs recently dug, at great expense, in the chalk hills of Cherry-Hinton. Again: "St. Mary's, a stately Gothic structure, forms one side of a quadrangle, in which the Public Library and Senate-House are also placed." Few would gather from this description, that the principal street of the town and some very substantial iron railings divide St. Mary's from the Senate House; and they are only in the same "quadrangle" in the sense that any buildings may be contained in a square if it is to be drawn with that special object. Again: "The gaol is in the yard of the ancient castle (of which little more than the gateway remains)." Those who go to Cambridge and ask for this gateway will be grievously disappointed. It was pulled down when the new Courts adjoining the gaol were built, at least thirty years ago. No mention is made in the article following on the University about the New Schools now in course of erection in the Old Botanic Gardens. The writer is unaware of the existence of the Moral Sciences and the Natural Sciences Triposes. He asserts that "a declaration of adherence to the doctrines of the Church of England is required to be signed" by those who proceed to the degree of B.A., being evidently unconscious of all recent legislation on the subject. Equally extraordinary is another assertion, though of much smaller importance, that "except at King's and Trinity, the Heads of these colleges are elected by the fellows, for life, from amongst themselves." The fact is, that King's does elect its own Head, and that Jesus and Magdalen at least, if no others, do not. The whole of the modern constitution of the University is ignored. The *caput*, long since deceased, here survives in full vigour. But we have said enough. The only excuse for the inattention and ignorance displayed by

such an article is that the history of Universities will not be looked for in a Geographical Dictionary. But as the thing has been attempted, when the author gets to "Oxford," no doubt he will take our rebuke to heart, and make such amends as is in his own power.

If we recollect right, in the last edition of the "Statesman's Year-Book," there is given at the end of each article a list of books and authorities; a thing not only useful in itself, but doubly useful to the compiler, because the necessity of framing such a list will itself oblige him to ascertain the latest sources of information, and to some extent to use them. The absence of such a necessity has, we are convinced, prevented Mr. Martin sometimes from being properly braced up to his task. We cannot lay our hands upon our reference at this moment, but sure we are there has been a later ascent of Mount Ararat than that of Count Khoelsko in 1850; and other travellers and explorers have told us something of Carthage besides MM. Falbe and Dureau de la Malle, which fell under the dominion of the Saracens sometime before 1698 A.D.; though perhaps this is the fault of the printer, as the insertion of the map of South America opposite the article on Abyssinia is undoubtedly that of the binder. Baku has certainly been seen by more recent travellers than Kinneir, and we fail in the article on Africa, though Captain Speke's discoveries are hinted at, to see any precise statement of his famous walk through Central Africa, or any discussion as to whether he "settled" the Nile or not. But this, perhaps, will be done in another volume. The "Black Sea," on the other hand, has been, to use a familiar expression, thoroughly whitewashed. Some allusion to the dreadful storm of 1855 would have been grateful; and the destruction of our finest vessels seems scarcely covered by the phrase that "accidents sometimes occur."

The provinces of Geography and Anthropology slide somewhat into each other; and not a few will turn to "Asia," "Africa," "America," and "Canada," and similar articles, in hopes of seeing the theories of the present day on the origin and affinity of races discussed at large. Whilst we should have preferred to see Prichard's now almost obsolete work less quoted, and the original authorities he drew from, or more modern ones still occupying his place, still we are glad to see there is very far from being any confidence reposed in the statements which are properly his. With a little more boldness he might have been rejected altogether, and with advantage, by Mr. Martin; who is by no means prejudiced in favour of aboriginal populations; and who, if he does not distinctly assert a different origin for many human races, at all events goes so far as to say that many of them are destined to remain for ever subservient to their more fortunate brethren. Thus of the Australian, "the fair presumption seems to be, that he is destined to remain for ever at the bottom of the social scale; and to be inferior in point of comfort, as he has hitherto been hardly superior in contrivance, to many of the lower animals." And of the Red Indians, "their fate is 'sealed.' Experience has sufficiently proved that the red men are incapable of any real civilization; and nothing can prevent their extermination other than the abiding by a determination not to enter their territories, or to interfere in any degree with their grounds, habits, or pursuits. But such a determination could scarcely be carried out. America has been settled, civilized, and improved only through perpetual encroachments on the natives; and to say that these should cease, would be to say that vast tracts of fine country should be doomed to continual barbarism." And of the Americans generally: "Of the origin of the American race we are totally ignorant. Neither the evidence of physical form nor of arbitrary customs and institutions, which could spring only from a common source, or the testimony of language, connect them with any other race of men. . . .

We are not, indeed, unaware that the comparison of a great number of American with a great number of Asiatic languages has exhibited a small number of resemblances; but these we are disposed to consider as forced, fanciful, or accidental."

This part of the book is certainly well done: though we notice that the author has started without any very precise ideas about the classification of mankind. He is still somewhat under the authority of Blumenbach; but he yields him a very constrained obedience. However, no one can study the "Dictionary" without gaining considerable information as to the facts, or without becoming aware that Anthropology is in need of some master-mind to strike out the true scale and measure according to which the varieties of the species, or the species of the genus of mankind are to be arranged.

The longest articles are by far the most satisfactory part of the undertaking in other respects also. The story of the gradual discovery of America from the earliest times down to the present day is particularly good. So also is the account of the "Atlantic Ocean." The tracks generally pursued by vessels between the Old and New Worlds are sketched with clearness, and suggest a stability of the winds and oceans very contrary to their ancient character, which they have obtained rather from the ignorance of man than from the actual facts. "Belgium" is a model of what an article of that nature ought to be. It is readable in itself. We are shown institutions other than our own, which have led to almost as great a pitch of material success. Belgium has managed to abolish capital punishment, though it is still "recorded" in some cases. It has combined relief from starvation without giving encouragement to an indefinite increase of the population. "By the penal code, a mendicant once condemned to the workhouse for public begging may be kept there during the remainder of his life." The arrangements of this densely-populated country are well worth studying by the disciples as well as by the opponents of Malthus. Take, again, the article on "Australia." The shorter notices are not quite so satisfactory. We are at a loss to understand why some places are honoured with mention at all, especially in a volume where space is of importance. Bulky as it is, it does not carry us beyond "Caspé," and we doubt if the promised three which are to follow can possibly be made to contain all the letters of the alphabet. But however this may turn out, we shall have a book of reference invaluable of its kind; one that for many years will be quoted as an authority, and which will never cease to have an historical value even when it has been superseded, according to the laws of nature, by a progeny nobler than itself.

THE WEST INDIES.

W. S. W. *A Voyage in that Direction to the West Indies.* By Robert Elwes. (Kerby & Son.)

A FIFTEEN days' run (one day of 312 miles) from England takes the author to St. Thomas'. The island of Sombroero was passed, and we are informed that it is principally composed of a hard "sort of guano." From other sources we are enabled to state that it is a curious phosphatic matter, and cannot be ranked as a guano. It is a mineral phosphate, containing nearly eighty per cent. of phosphate of lime. It is taken principally to the United States.

We pass over the author's observations on St. Thomas', which has been so often and more fully described. Steaming past Santo Domingo, he gets to Jamaica. No flattering account is given of Kingston. If one house was in tolerable repair, the next would very likely be railed in more like an English pig-stye. The houses could never have been good, not a piece of cut stone was seen in the whole town, and the brickwork looked as if all the mortar had been picked out of it. Instead of a breakfast of "West Indian delicacies," bad coffee and ridiculously tough

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beefsteak and fried bacon was the morning meal.

Another steaming of 550 miles takes the author to the improving Atlantic town of Colon, situated on the "Isthmus of Panamá," rather say Isthmus of Darien. From Colon to Panamá the renowned isthmus is traversed by a railway of 49 miles in length. For some distance the country is flat and marshy, with mangroves and swamp palms. Hilly land succeeds to the Chagres river. The scenery was very beautiful, as the track ran through the thickest and most luxuriant tropical vegetation, the larger trees covered with orchids. The temperature in the cars was 95°. When the telegraph posts were first put up, it was very difficult to keep them long, as the ants and other insects destroyed them, &c., quickly. Posts made of cement cast in a mould were substituted.

Mr. Elwes gives but a sorry description of Panamá. From our personal knowledge of the place some twelve years since, it must be fast deteriorating. It has at present a mixed population of 10,000 souls, the negro and mulatto predominating. Mr. Elwes, being fond of sketching, had every facility afforded him by the railway authorities; indeed, the railway-track was the best way for him to penetrate into the densely wooded country. He alludes to the *Peristera alata*, named by the Spaniards *Espiritu Santo*, or the Holy Ghost; for the blossom has the form of a white dove with outspread wings hovering in it.

There was no manufacture in Panamá except the gold chains. As to the pearls, they are brought from a group of islands sixty miles to the south-east, and produce about 20,000*l.* annually. The shells are exported to make mother-of-pearl. The so-called Panamá hats, used and sold all over tropical countries, are made in Guauquil. We learn that from 1855 to 1860 sixty millions sterling worth of silver and gold had been taken across the isthmus by the railway, and without the loss of a single dollar.

Mr. Elwes returned to Jamaica and explored the island, pencil in hand; had he given us chromo-lithographs, such would have been more satisfactory than those illustrating the book. At Spanish Town he visited Governor and Mrs. Eyre. "King's House," he says, is well built and looks handsome; but the town itself was an English negro town of the very worst style. The Governor had a country house at Hamstead, on the top of the mountains. Exploring and sketching pleasantly fills up a traveller's time. He visited a village school; the little negroes "appeared as far advanced as the children in most village schools in England, and they seemed very sharp; their black beady eyes almost starting out of their heads with eagerness as we questioned them; but as their master taught them with the peculiar nigger pronunciation of English, making such words as 'oak,' 'road,' into two syllables—viz., *o-ark*, *ro-ard*, it was not likely that they would speak very well when they grew up."

In one locality, he observes, there seemed to be no want of labour, but the negroes, when they work at all, do but little: they go into the field at six o'clock and leave at ten, considering that is a day's work; and at least two days in the week they do nothing at all—one being market-day, is a sufficient excuse for idleness. This indolence prevents the culture of cotton, which might be produced to any extent in Jamaica. At p. 70 there is a note on the late insurrection doings in Jamaica. "There seems no doubt but it was the premature explosion of a plot against the white population of Jamaica; and the probable cause of these disturbances is the foolish idea of giving black people the same rights, and making them politically equal with the whites. These sort of countries must be either white or black; one must be the governing power. . . In Jamaica the whites number 15,000, the negroes 400,000. If once the latter had got

possession of the island, it would have cost thousands of lives. But fortunately we had the brave and determined Eyre at the head of affairs."

Leaving Jamaica for St. Thomas', our author soon steams off to the Windward Islands, entering into geological matters of volcanic character connected with them. The island of Trinidad was explored. Here a Miss Emma Clarke, a mulatta, kept an hotel, but generally speaking there was nothing in the house. When anything was wanted, as there were no bells, Miss Emma had to be called, and out of the window. "Miss Emma." "What you want?" "I want my shoes cleaned." "Pitch 'em out, then, the boy will clean 'em." "Miss Emma, I want some ice and limes." "You must wait, then; boy gone to ice-house this half hour; I expect he stop to play in street; I cuff him when he come back." The Botanic Garden is described as very beautiful. Trinidad has one peculiarity—it is never visited by hurricanes, and altogether it is very healthy.

Of course the Pitch Lake was visited. "We landed at La Brea on pitch, the road was pitch, and everything was pitch. An asphalt petroleum sort of atmosphere pervaded everything, and the dust smelt and tasted of pitch. We soon came to the lake, and walked on it, a slight depression in a flattish country is filled with the blackest pitch. It was being shipped to England. A great dispute was raging between the agents of a company of which a Mr. Perkins was manager, and a German, who was agent to Lord Dundonald. Returning to St. Thomas', Mr. Elwes steamed away for England after a pleasant tour of three months and a-half. Anyone wishing to pass the cold winter months of Northern Europe in the northern tropics will do well to refer to "W.S.W."

HUMOROUS POEMS.

Humorous Poems. By Oliver Wendell Holmes. (Boston: Ticknor & Fields.)

THERE is, perhaps, no kind of writing more difficult to criticise than that which professes to be humorous. In almost every other species of writing there exist canons of composition, more or less accurately defined, which enable the critic to judge of his victim, so to speak, objectively. There is no absolute necessity for appreciation or enjoyment of the work itself. Such sympathy with the work, if it exist, will no doubt add to the judgment a greater delicacy and precision, but a tolerably accurate account of the merits and demerits of most books may be given where the tastes of the critic and his author are wholly dissimilar. Whether a judgment formed under such circumstances would, as a matter of fact, be accurate, raises a totally different question. Mental dishonesty may exist in the critic to any amount; but the requisite materials for a proper decision are ready to his hand, and it only requires a sufficient effort on his part to arrive at a true conclusion. But it is otherwise in the case of a work of humour. Here no canons of construction can be said to exist. Men are not even agreed as to that in which humour consists. Sydney Smith has indeed lent his authority to the opinion that wit, unlike poetry, is not born with a man, but may be acquired. "A man," in his view, "might sit down as systematically and as successfully to the study of wit, as he might to the study of mathematics." Now, whatever may be learnt after this fashion must proceed by some method, and satisfy conditions capable of being expressed with the like mathematical accuracy. Against this theory must be put the common consent of mankind to the contrary, and the fact that no one has ever revealed any such attainment, either by his own confession or a manifest improvement in the liveliness of his own discourse. Men change in every other particular: the poor become rich, the ignorant wise, and even the bad good; but the dull man is always dull. His case is regarded as hopeless even by his best friends, and his enemies feel well assured there will

be no change. The only possible test of the excellence of wit would appear to be the subjective one. If it pleases us in a particular way, it is humour to us; and the more catholic our own spirit of humour is, the more likely is the standard by which we try it to be a fair one.

Artists are said invariably to make the worst critics; but here it is only the artist, the truly humorous man, who can fairly judge his rival's performance. And even in his case the judgment must amount to a simple affirmation or denial of excellence. He cannot tell why he is pleased; he gives his decision for or against *simpliciter* without reasons, and his extracts from his author form the most intelligible, as they are invariably the most readable, portion of his judgment. The critic, too, is only assisted in a negative way by the knowledge that his author wrote in a particular place, or at a particular time, or under peculiar circumstances. These facts, if known, may warn him from attempting any judgment at all, but they do not help him to acquire the local or other taste necessary for appreciation. If he knows that he is not likely to possess such taste, from having found other books of acknowledged merit dull, he feels that the book speaks to him in an unknown tongue; but such feeling, though it may incite him to humility, will subserve scarcely any other useful purpose.

A very different source of difficulty, and one much more within the critic's own control, is a natural disinclination to find fault with what is solely intended for our amusement. Whatever may be said by enthusiasts about a thirst for truth, it is a lamentable fact that instruction is in the main distasteful, and the teacher an object of unmerited disgust. While, therefore, it is quite true "that mankind are always more fastidious about what is pleasing than they are about what is useful," it is equally certain that they exercise much greater forbearance in the outward expression of their opinion in the former case than in the latter. Unless the effort be very bad indeed, it seems ungrateful to abuse what was meant to make us laugh. For instance, we are ready enough to argue a friend down in conversation, but we hesitate to laugh at him rather than his sally when he conceives himself to be facetious. Humour is an individuality, it is part of a man's self, which he offers to us, and so that it do not offend, we are content to let it pass, even if it does not amuse. It can do no harm, it is merely a firework which has not gone off, and our condemnation can do him no good; he is incurable.

Books of humour are, therefore, seldom criticised except to be praised; and much rubbish is thus floated for a time, which it would have been wise in the interests of the world to have sunk at once by an authoritative shot. And it seems unnecessary to warn anyone, because, if the work be witty, each part will be so; and the reader is at once warned by the dulness of a part of the dulness of the whole. And this tendency to gentleness is, no doubt, strengthened by the dread that want of approval will be construed as want of appreciation, and our attack wound ultimately only ourselves.

The same disinclination to anything which seems at all harsh may be seen in dramatic criticism, at least the contemporary criticism of the press. The *Times* is a notable instance of what we mean. It would be childish to attribute any mercenary motive for the tone of such a paper, and the uniformity with which every actor, and almost every piece, is overpraised, precludes the idea that partiality has anything to do with it. A case strongly illustrating this remark occurred last year. Sheridan's great work had been put upon the stage at the St. James's by a company whom the veriest tyro could predict to be wholly incapable of filling the parts even respectably. "Here," we said, when looking for the dramatic article in the *Times*, "is the *experimentum crucis*. With Frank Mathews as *Sir Peter*, and Mrs. Frank Mathews as *Mrs. Candour*, if this performance be praised,

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they'll praise anything." The performance was about as bad as it is possible for any performance of the "School for Scandal" to be, and it was praised, and that in no stinted way.

We do not say that this sort of criticism is justifiable under any circumstances; but it is clearly attributable to that general leniency with which we regard every effort made for our mere amusement. The short-lived character of the triumph, if there is to be one at all, makes us afraid to despoil the artist of his fleeting fame. There is no posterity for the actor and the wit.

Mr. Holmes, the well-known author of "The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table," has collected together a number of short pieces, most of which we believe had previously seen the light, and has published them in a little volume by themselves, calling them "Humorous Poems." We do not think, setting the question of pecuniary compensation aside, that he has been well advised in this course. Mr. Holmes is undoubtedly possessed of considerable humour, but we question whether it displays itself to the best advantage in a metrical form; and pieces which were good enough to pass safely the friendly criticism of a friendly audience, or to relieve other matter of a different kind, show a very different front when viewed with impartial eyes, and judged solely on their isolated merits. The author would have done well to consider his own lines, for

Nature sometimes makes one up
Of such sad odds and ends,
It really might be quite as well,
Hushed up among one's friends.

We have already said that it is impossible to assign a reason for our adverse opinion in such a matter as this. The divine fire is wanting. We know thus much, for we are where it professes to be, and we feel no genial warmth.

Many great men have found it much more difficult to define wit than to create it; and were we to attempt such a definition by negatives, a common device when hard pressed, we should certainly begin by saying that it was not such a composition as any one of those before us. Not but that they have some of the elements which are characteristic of humour. The volume decidedly excites surprise, the most invariable element in the complex mental state which wit causes, and there is no lack of variety in this single element. We are surprised at what the author fancies to be fun, what the publisher takes for it, and what the public give for it. Laughter too is a pretty constant attendant upon humour, and if Hobbes' definition of that passion be true, that it arises from a sudden sense of some eminency in ourselves, some pieces in this volume are calculated to make the dullest among us grow fat.

None of the poems rise above mediocrity, and some fall very much below it. Occasionally the humour, if there is any, is of the kind most popular on the 14th of February, as in the poem "To the Portrait of a Lady," which commences in this facetious vein:—

Well, miss, I wonder where you live,
I wonder what's your name;
I wonder how you came to be
In such a stylish frame.

And the progress and conclusion do not disgrace this auspicious commencement.

In reference to the title of the volume, we cannot help wondering whether the author was ever present at the Olympic when the late Mr. Robson played in the "Wandering Minstrel." Our readers will remember how the minstrel, in the middle of the well-known song, used to pause amid the roars of the audience, and remark, "Gentlemen and ladies, this is *not* a comic song." In some such spirit, perhaps, the title of "Humorous Poems" is repeated on the top of every other page.

In a volume of detached pieces making no pretension to any connexion among themselves beyond the possession of a common style, it is perhaps too much to expect any very methodical arrangement. But though

Mr. Holmes is, doubtless, entitled to the benefit of this view, we think he has done himself an injustice, and we had almost said his readers an injury, in not placing the poem which stands on page 52 at the commencement of the volume.

In this we are told that on one occasion the author had out-done himself in some humorous composition, and on submitting it to his servant, his usual censor we presume, it so convulsed the well-trained menial that he was laid up for ten days:—

Ten days and nights, with sleepless eye,
I watched that wretched man;
And since I never dare to write
As funny as I can.

This explains everything, and might, if known at the start, save the reader a world of trouble. But the avowal is better late than never. We feel that at any rate the author's heart is in the right place. We cannot but think, however, that he has committed the not unnatural mistake of running into the opposite extreme, for after reading these pieces we continue well but weary.

The best pieces in the volume are, perhaps, "The Spectre Pig," "Verses for After Dinner," "Aestivation," and "A Sea Dialogue." And it may be said in general of the volume, that what humour it contains is of a convivial sort. We shall conclude with an extract from the lines "On Lending a Punch-bowl." There is not much humour in them, but they are written in a kindly, manly strain, which touches the heart quite as much as the head:—

This ancient silver bowl of mine, it tells of
good old times;
Of joyous days, and jolly nights, and merry
Christmas chimes;
They were a free and jovial race, but honest,
brave, and true,
That dipped their ladle in the punch, when this
old bowl was new.

I love the memory of the past—its pressed yet
fragrant flowers;
The moss that clothes its broken walls; the ivy
on its towers;
Nay this poor bauble it bequeathed—my eyes
grow moist and dim,
To think of all the vanished joys that danced
around its brim.

THE UNITED STATES.

The United States during the War. By Auguste Laugel. (Bailliere.)

M. AUGUSTE LAUGEL says well in his preface, "Nothing is more difficult than to justly appreciate the American character." The fact is, man has not yet been acclimatized in the New World. Characters in the process of formation are proverbially more hard to decipher than those which are thoroughly developed and solidified. Pennsylvania, one of the oldest States in the Union, is perhaps the one in which the population is the least homogeneous. But in every State there is a constant succession of races. In the maritime ones the American gives way to the Dutchman or German. In the West, the German plays the part of pioneer; "he loves isolation, he clears up the forest, and brings the first harvests out of the earth. . . . When the task of the labourer is ended, that of the Yankee begins; the producer is followed by the speculator." They do not understand each other; "but these two great races mutually complete each other; one finishes what the other begins, and from their marriage will one day spring, at least in the West, a new race, in whom the fine mental and physical qualities will find a better equilibrium." That populations like these should present apparently "a tissue of contradictions" can be in no way surprising. M. Laugel has attempted some analysis, and it is worth studying; but, from his own showing, the problem is still to be solved; and all we have to do is to admit the fact, and forbear to judge a new society by maxims which imply historical and traditional guidance; and which, after all, can only be limited in their application.

M. Laugel arrived off Long Island in September, 1864, at an eventful moment. The pilot who came on board announced "Atlanta is taken," words which decided the Presidential election, and the ultimate fate of the great Civil War. But we prefer the traveller to the politician. To see an election with your own eyes does not necessarily imply any special qualification for moralizing upon it. The country from Boston to Niagara was little affected by the war, nor do we trace in the author's pages that it was pressed upon his attention either by the aspect of the numerous cities he passed through or by the conversation of his fellow-passengers in the cars. Straight lines conveyed our author from Niagara to Detroit, and from Detroit to Chicago. "Nothing catches the eye on this fertile plain. You do not travel in the West; you are carried from one place to another. You pass at one bound all the phases of civilization." Bread and meat are the productions of Chicago; elevators and slaughtering houses the most characteristic architecture. Let us go to see an "elevator." "Imagine an immense building without windows, very high, and divided on the inside into several stories, the ground floor cut into two by a long gallery, where two trains and their engines can come in. The Chicago river flows on one side of the elevator, a canal on the other connected with the river, so that boats can lie alongside the building as easily as trains can go inside." A single elevator will hold 1,250,000 bushels of grain, and Chicago possesses eighteen, though not all of that magnitude. The war in no way interrupted the development of agriculture in the West. The farmer benefited in every possible way. The price of corn rose, and at the same time he could pay off his mortgages in paper. The demand for labour stimulated the invention of agricultural machines, and many small farms were entirely cultivated by the families that owned them. The notion, therefore, once entertained in England that the Western States were likely to let the Atlantic States fight out the war by themselves was in the highest degree chimerical. The doctrine of Secession did not make a single convert there. The account of the *packing* or slaughter-houses is too Homeric for us to quote: suffice it that 340 oxen and 1,800 hogs fall beneath the knife every autumn day in one establishment alone. No wonder the Federals were the best supplied armies on record.

Missouri and the town of St. Louis first impressed M. Laugel's mind that he was in a country which was waging a gigantic war. The hospitals were full with the convalescents of Vicksburg. "Boxes arrived daily from all parts of the Union, containing the most varied objects: from Maine to Minnesota, from Boston to St. Louis, there is not a village that has not sent its offering." Once more across the continent, M. Laugel went really to the seat of battle, with a pass from President Lincoln, "all written in his own hand." "The first soldiers I saw at City Point were blacks. I have often heard it said that all blacks look alike; this illusion is soon lost on seeing a regiment of them. What varying shades and types! Some heads have still a bestial expression, massive lips, and lengthened jaws; the ugliness of others is, so to speak, ennobled by a frank and courageous physiognomy; others, again, possess a true manly beauty, bronzed and peculiar." The testimony of this eye-witness is very favourable to a volunteer army when mixed with a due proportion of regulars. "They only asked to fight; nothing is so fatal to such an army as inaction, which brings with it, perforce, desertion, drunkenness, and demoralization. By the end of two months they have learned all they want to know, and after that, they can only gain by making a campaign. As soon as a volunteer has learned the use of fire-arms, of a gun or a cannon, he should not be sent to a review, but into a battle." The book would not have been complete without a chapter on "Abraham Lincoln," of whom M. Laugel is an enthusiastic admirer. He also seems to approve the protective policy

of the United States. "It will be time enough to think of political economy when all the slopes of the Alleghanies have been explored, and thousands of tall chimneys smoke in their valleys, when Manchester manufacturers shall come to visit model factories in Massachusetts; when all the new industries shall have gone through the period of creation and organization." M. Laugel tells us nothing that is very new, but his observations are recommended by excellent English, and he will add his quota to making the "Yankee" better understood and more justly appreciated.

A TALE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

The Story of Kennett. By Bayard Taylor. 2 Vols. (Low, Son, & Marston.)

MR. BAYARD TAYLOR, as was Sir Walter Scott, is both a poet and a novelist; like the author of "Waverley," too, the author of "The Story of Kennett" is a landowner and a country gentleman. The New York papers amongst their recent interesting bits of literary gossip have told us that the author, who has been spending the winter in New York, returned recently to his farm at Kennet Square, Chester County, Pennsylvania, having first seen his novel reach its eighth thousand, and his new poem "The Picture of St. John," a story of art-life in Italy, in the printer's hands.

With tastes and pursuits kindred to those of Washington Irving and Nathaniel Hawthorne, and with the same strong love of the natural beauties of his native country, which gives fascination to the pages of James Fenimore Cooper, Mr. Bayard Taylor here furnishes us with a picture of simple, unstrained, matter-of-fact everyday life, placed among the beautiful hills and charming valleys round about his own country home, with every feature of which he claims the familiarity of an old acquaintance, and which he, from the beginning to the end of the book, makes the common property of the reader with himself. The traditions and habits of the people among whom the greater part of his life has been passed, the rustic dwellers and the legends of the country, in themselves but homespun materials for a work of fiction, in his hands have all the charm of novelty with which Goldsmith, the greatest master of the school of which Mr. Taylor is an advanced pupil, invested the everyday life of the family of the Primroses, till, in their way, "The Story of Kennett" and "The Vicar of Wakefield" may be regarded as true pictures of the simple manners and customs of rural England and America at the date in which the action of either tale is placed.

Indeed, Mr. Taylor assures us himself that every custom he has described is true to the time, though some of them are now obsolete; that he has used no peculiar word or phrase of the common dialect of the country which he has not himself heard; and further, that he owes the chief incidents of the last chapter, given to him on her death-bed, to the dear and noble woman, whose character (not the circumstances of her life) he has endeavoured to reproduce in that of Martha Deane. At a glance it becomes evident that some of the characters are but photographs, reproduced, it is true, with all the cunning of a master of the art. This is the case with Sandy Flash, the freebooter and highwayman, who lives in the bush; with Deb. Smith, a wandering sort of Meg Merrilies diluted; with Joe and Jake Fairthorn, two little impish urchins, up to all kind of mad pranks; but more particularly with Roger, a noble horse, next to his master, Gilbert Potter, the hero of one of the most graphic scenes in the book. Speaking of these to his neighbours, to whom he dedicates "The Story of Kennett," the author introduces them as characters which many of them will be sure to recognize, admitting that "truth and fiction are so carefully woven together in the story, that they will sometimes be at a loss to disentangle them."

"The country life of our part of Pennsyl-

vania," he adds, "retains more elements of its English origin than that of New England or Virginia. Until within a few years, the conservative influence of the Quakers was so powerful that it continued to shape the habits even of communities whose religious sentiments it failed to reach. Hence, whatever might be selected as incorrect of American life, in its broader sense, in these pages, is nevertheless locally true." This is the great charm of the book, and gives to it a freshness, which, "in these days, when Fiction prefers to deal with abnormal characters and psychological problems, more or less morbid," makes the representation of the elements of life in a simple, healthy, pastoral community a source of true enjoyment. The date of the tale is the close of the last century, the infancy of the rising power of the United States; but beyond the bare mention of Kennett Square itself occupying the ground of a battle-field, and the turning up of a dead Hessian by Deb. Smith, that event is made to add no interest to the narrative.

The whole interest, indeed, is centred round the leading characters, Mary Potter and her son Gilbert; Martha Deane and her father, a dandy Quaker doctor; the old miser, Barton, and his son Alfred, a would-be English squire; Fortune, or Sandy Flash, as he proves to be, a type of the Robin Hood and Rob Roy freebooter, and his Deb. Smith; and Betsy Lavender, an unfledged type of Mrs. Poyser, an old maid, full of wise saws and wondrous sentences. Of the subordinate characters two only need be mentioned, a second pair of lovers, Mark Deane and Sally Fairthorn. Mr. Taylor shows the good sense of De Foe by dropping his minor characters just at the right time, so as not to be missed by the reader. Of this small community Gilbert Potter, who bears his mother's maiden name, is the hero, and Martha Deane, a life-like impersonation, as true to nature as if she had been sketched by George Eliot, is the heroine. Of course the stumbling-block in the way of the lovers is the poverty of Gilbert and the slur upon his name. Of the latter he had outwardly made but small account, letting it rattle without murmur in his own breast, till he finds himself in love with Martha Deane, but then he breaks the matter to his mother, who in an agony of grief exclaims: "Ten years, and you believed it all that time! . . . A lie! a lie! You are my son born in lawful wedlock." In fact, the mother was bound by an oath not to reveal the father's name till after the death of her husband's father, as the marriage had been a clandestine one, contracted at a moment when the old man was supposed to be approaching his end. Bound by this oath, Mary Potter continues for twenty-five years to live under the implied disgrace, but a strong religious feeling supports her, for she sees in all only the finger of God, and waits His good time to release her, and so keeps the secret to herself.

Every one interested speculates upon the probable paternity of Gilbert, who himself, as there is a mystery attached to the Deane family, at first finds a solution to the enigma in the supposition that Dr. Deane is his father. This is doubly painful; he loves Martha Deane, and then she would be his half-sister, and the stain of illegitimacy would be transferred from himself to her. He establishes satisfactorily that such is not the case, but perhaps it is the doctor's brother to whom he owes his birth. That conjecture also is dismissed, and his suspicions centre upon Sandy Flash. That worthy at last, gets into trouble, and is hanged for his crimes. Previous to his execution, Gilbert Potter visits him. "Sandy!" Gilbert cried desperately, "answer this one question—don't go out of the world with a false word in your mouth! You are not my father?" The highwayman's answer is satisfactory; Gilbert is not his son. Much of the interest of the second volume is kept up by Gilbert's search for a father, and the denouement is only brought about at the close of the volume in a manner, natural

enough in itself, but to reveal which would spoil the reader's pleasure, so we leave it untold.

It will be seen that the plot is secondary. Mr. Bayard Taylor meant to give us a picture of Quaker life in Pennsylvania some eighty years ago. That he has succeeded is shown by the great and merited success of "The Story of Kennett" in America. It is no small praise for a writer of fiction to have produced a tale of national manners and customs so truthful, and, at the same time, possessing all the novelty of a phase of life but imperfectly known to the great bulk of his readers. Great as the popularity of the book has been in America, we predict that its popularity with us will be no less sure and lasting.

THE MODERN CHORUS.

The Prometheus Bound of Æschylus. Literally Translated into English Verse by Augusta Webster. Edited by Thomas Webster, M.A., late Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. (Macmillan and Co.)

Philoctetes: A Metrical Drama, after the Antique. (A. W. Bennett.)

A CONSIDERATION of these two attempts has convinced us of the truth of two canons. First, that the translation of a Greek poet, either in rhyme or in blank verse, should be judged not so much in reference to its original, as to its own effect as a poem; and secondly, that a poem after the antique is a much better test of comprehension of true classical feeling, and is certain, if properly done, to turn out a much more readable production, than the best translation of any Greek author on the same subject. There is, we own, a peculiar difficulty in the way of a modern the bent of whose genius suggests to him such subjects or such heroes as "Prometheus" or "Philoctetes." They struggle against the ruling Providence, and deny both his antiquity and the necessary perpetuity of his rule. They recollect or have been informed of "earlier gods," under whom things went on very differently. They foresee, or pretend to do so, "gods to come," under whom they, at all events, will not be oppressed. To express sentiments of this kind without incurring the reproach of blasphemy is almost impossible. Nor is the excuse of making persons speak in character held quite sufficient. The satirist may describe vice with such painful accuracy that he may almost be welcomed as a panderer by those he is anxious to denounce. Let man struggle with the elements or with fate as much as you will. In all that he may be the unconscious agent of Divine foreknowledge, or may be only anxious to discover what really is the Divine will. But open rebellion is distasteful, because it seems impossible. Our greatest epic has scarcely avoided the reproach of the ludicrous, "and the roar of an angel onset" cannot be imitated where he has failed.

There is fine poetry in "Philoctetes;" but it is the song of despair, and most unwilling submission. Humanity is placed above Deity; and the ways of man are proclaimed as superior to the ways of God. His power over us is bounded by this life. He is neither our Maker nor our Judge. He is essentially a Demiurgus, but not the original one. He has come into the possession of authority unjustly, or by fortune, which he uses, not so much with cruelty as with caprice. The ancient chorus vindicated the ways of God to man; but the "Lemnian Fishermen" are as reckless in their philosophy as the victim of an incurable disease.

Mighty our masters and
Very revengeful,
Throned in the eminent
Ambers of twilight,
Helming the seasons in
Pastime they sit;
Tossing a plague on some
Fortunate island,
Carelessly tossing it,
Watching it go
Strike and exterminate—
Sweet is the cry to them—

THE READER.

19 MAY, 1866.

As when some hunter
Exultingly hears
The scream of the hare, &c.

The general plot of the story is little, if at all, different from the drama of Sophocles. The St. Helena of antiquity retains the indispensable man without whom Greece cannot conquer; but it cannot boast his grave. It is not his embalmed body that will rouse a nation to arms, but his living self. The Congress of his foes was wiser in its generation than that of Verona. It tore up its own treaties, and begged for the bow and the quiver which only one arm could wield. There is not much scope here for dramatic action. The pleading of Ulysses falls dull upon modern ears. Philoctetes is persuaded by a dream or vision. He goes, neither submissive nor hostile to the will of the gods. His faith is—

Noble and great he only, who can say
Whatever plague the strong great gods impose,
"Be it done, but I am free."

And the Chorus re-echo the sentiment and applaud—

Man, let them have their way—
They use thee as they choose,
Count every happy dream
As stolen from the envy of their power,
Turn at the last to slumber, if no great woe
Hath taken thee, secure,
That under the warm earth to vex thy sleep
Their hands can never come.

NEW NOVELS.

The Dove in the Eagle's Nest. (Macmillan & Co.)

TO combine moral teaching with interest, is of all things the hardest; for our part we regard the religious tag at the end of a novel with much the same respect as we do the crust at the lower side of an old bottle of choice port wine, we would not disturb it for the world. There are, however, persons who insist on your taking your dose of medicine well shaken together; but, alas! in religious works, the particles refuse to assimilate, and at one time you have all the unctuousness of the oil, at another all the sharpness of the vinegar, and in no wise can the draught agree with your constitution. The strange compound, only nauseates your stomach. The writer of "The Dove in the Eagle's Nest" has managed to give us a clear, pleasant tonic; there are no lees and no muddy combination of perfect goodness and thorough wickedness; we can confidently recommend the vintage.

The tale is in itself a beautiful moral, and yet one does not perceive that we are being lectured throughout. Where authors have a good purpose in view, they should be doubly careful not to add to the stock-in-trade of the druggist. Who would not prefer a stroll through Mr. Rimmel's perfumery? and, in truth, unless we can obtain a refreshing, healthy feeling from a work, it will be of little service to be dragged into the dark closet and made sick with chemicals. The story is of the date of our Henry VIII.; the scene is laid in Germany, under the Emperors Friedrich III. and Maximilian. We were much reminded of Sir Walter Scott's novels in perusing the book; the same skilful use is made of real history. How much have we all been indebted to novel-writers for our knowledge of history! It would seem to us that Shakespeare's historical plays, Scott's novels, and some others give a far greater insight into the past than the most careful collection of State documents. There is as much difference as to the influence of such works on our memory and hearts, as there is in attending a public meeting convened for taking some case into consideration, and listening to all which is said in a formal routine manner, and being present at the occurrence itself, where the touches of real life were so vividly apparent. But to return to our dove, who is in fact a burgher maiden transplanted into one of the robber castles possessed by a member of the

free nobles—so called because they made free with other people's property.

Faust recht, or fist right, appears to us by no means an agreeable state of things. By this a nobleman was enabled to carry on a private war with his enemy after having sent him a *Fehde brief*, or challenge, and woe to any travellers who fell into the hands of such gentry. Christina is the daughter of one of the soldier retainers of Schloss Adlerstein, the typical eagle's nest; she has hitherto lived with her uncle Gottfried, a master mason of a mediæval city. She is required to wait on the rich daughter of the Baron of the Schloss, and though reluctant to leave her uncle, goes as a duty to her father. She gradually wins over the young lady on whom she attends, as well as her brother, the young Baron. On the death of his rich sister, the Baron insists on marrying Christina privately.

The young Baron and his father afterwards fall in a feud with their hereditary foes. The last act of the younger Baron is to place his young wife in her rightful position. The old Baron's wife is obliged to accept Christina as her daughter-in-law, though much disgusted with so low an alliance. Christina gives birth to twins, who are the chief heroes of the story. One is gentle and amiable, the other more fiery and like his father's family. The grandmother tries to make the heir like his ancestors in all their robber ways, but is counteracted by the mother's influence. The interest finally centres in the elder of the twins, the more gentle having been killed in a feud. It is this character which is best delineated; his faults and ardent temperament gradually give way to his mother's counsels.

We have not space to give more of the tale, but highly recommend it as being decidedly good, both in moral teaching and in its general ability.

Miss Marjoribanks. (Wm. Blackwood & Sons.)

SIR W. SCOTT'S dictum on writing is well worth consideration. If you would desire to be read with interest you must first of all perfectly comprehend, *yourself*, what you are about to say. One of the great charms, and there are many in the description of Miss Majoribanks' self-devoting career, is this perfect conception of the character. It would not appear at first sight to be a very eligible thought for a novel to represent the ambition of a schoolgirl to become the leader of society in a provincial town; but so admirably is the keeping of the character preserved, so brilliant are the touches which represent the accessory figures, that we do not hesitate to say that we have found much pleasure in following the clever and yet after all unselfish manœuvring of Miss Marjoribanks, and have read the book with thorough enjoyment. There are other charms, as we have before stated, in the history of Miss Majoribanks' triumphs. Among these are unexpected strokes of pathos, all the more telling from the way in which they are suffered merely to drop into their right places without being continually reminded of the attack on our sensibility; for this reason our feelings are more truly moved. The simplicity of the narrative, that art which conceals art, is particularly noticeable. In many novels we are kept at boiling point so long, that almost all our emotions are blown off before we can venture on another trip with the author; here, the ability of the narrator retains our interest almost without effort to the end. Whatever the characters say has meaning. We are a little weary of the pages which fill up many a modern book, and are offered as samples of everyday conversation over needle-work and such-like occupations, the effect of which is to make us long for the hut in some vast solitude. Talent does not mean the power of merely copying nature, but of making a picture. The style of writing is very good, with much real wit and plenty of imagination. The personages introduced are not caricatures, but fair embodiments of

actual existences. Above all, the author does not pretend to inculcate this or that class of opinion; but is content to show us a chapter of real life, and then permits us to draw our own inferences. Ours is, that we have been exceedingly well entertained, and are now anxious to peruse another story from the same brain. We must confess, until we finished the tale, which came out in parts in *Blackwood's Magazine*, that we were a little irritated, like dear old Mrs. Chiley, with Lucilla Marjoribanks' neglect of her own interests, but the denouement has quite reconciled us; it is so very just, and yet pathetic, that rough, clumsy, cousin Tom should carry off the prize at last, and it also shows what we commenced by stating, that the chief personage had been very carefully studied before she was portrayed. It was, as she says, to be Tom after all. Miss Marjoribanks' mission is to be the comfort of her papa, who is a widower, a doctor in Carlingford, a borough town. The doctor, who does not relish the notion of being deprived of the pleasures of a *quasi*-bachelor's life, staves off his difficulty by keeping Lucilla three years longer at school after her return from a tour in Italy, &c. Miss M. fairly takes possession of her father's house and commences her great mission; she holds Thursday evenings, and by means of her own talents and drawing people together is very successful. She organizes society, but is continually exposed to very serious hazards by the awkward conduct of many of her subjects. It is in managing these apparent catastrophes that Lucilla rises beyond herself. Several candidates for her hand, who are more struck by her mental superiority than by her charms, are drafted off to other persons. This is the whole plot; but so much knowledge of the world is shown, so varied are the dispositions delineated, so easy is the style, so pregnant with truth, that we become intensely-interested partizans of the Queen of Carlingford. The conversations are full of purpose, and all tend to one end—to heighten the difficulties to be managed, and to display the skill of the general. We rather suspect that the author has secured the privilege of passing into other people's heads and reading their thoughts; only we doubt whether the same advantages would be the result as now; for, simple and natural as the tale is, it has been carefully developed to the end by a very superior mind.

Mattins and Muttons. By Cuthbert Bede. (Sampson Low.)

WHO does not remember the University career of Verdant Green? There is a charm about the life at our great public schools and the Universities which is alike agreeable to the memory of those who have been there and to the imagination of those who have not. It reminds us of Columbus and the egg when we read a work which has suddenly disclosed a mine of wealth under our very feet. On second thoughts we stop to consider, and make a greater discovery that a miner requires peculiar knowledge as well as skilful use of his tools. Facts are not enough to set up a writer, no more than the possession of an extra fine block of Carrara marble will make a statuary. "Mattins and Muttons" is a love-tale carried on in Brighton, a good deal of the history and doings of which fashionable watering-place is recorded for our knowledge. There are a good many lively sallies in the book; one of the characters, Miss Galloway, the modern fast young lady, is well described. There is a good deal of the same graphic power in these volumes which made "Verdant Green" so popular. Some clever hits are made on lodging-houses, and the various nuisances of a seaside place. Mr. Pordage, the rector of Melladew, is a very good photograph. This gentleman does not like doing Banting, but tries various means to get down his superfluous flesh. He at last falls a victim to his high art pursuits, being carried off in a fit of apoplexy, on a hot day, while taking rubbings of a "sepulchral brass." We were much amused by the ghost which haunted

the lady's-maid. Mrs. Grimsby grants entertainment to her pet expounder, the Rev. Micah Mowle; and the Rev. Carissimus Jones, D.D., an Independent minister, is a very fair satire on the class which it ridicules.

The Melladew family are made the vehicle of the remarks in "Mattins and Muttons." Edgar is a young squire, who goes to Brighton with his mother and sister Helen; Edgar falls in love with the "Beauty of Brighton," as Ella Hardy is called; Helen Melladew is attached to Mr. Pordage's curate, Gilbert Ansley. These parties are of course united at last, Ansley being the successor to the fat rector of Melladew. There is much clever description in the book, and not a few trenchant blows at divers weaknesses of modern life. Those who have been to Brighton, and those who have not, will do well to place themselves under the author's guidance, and will enjoy a very pleasant sojourn there without the expenses of the trip.

Three Essays on Philosophical Subjects. By Thomas Shedden, M.A., St. Peter's College, Cambridge, Author of "The Elements of Logic." (Longmans.)—If the success of Mr. Mill's attack upon Sir William Hamilton's philosophy may be measured by the number of volumes it has produced, and the number of references made to it, nothing could have been more complete. In another fifty years a catalogue of these books and essays will be quite a literary curiosity, if nothing more. The effect has, indeed, been surprising, and we can remember nothing like it. Mr. Shedden's name may be added to this growing list, two-thirds of his book being occupied with the essay on Hamilton and Mill. He goes over the battlefield like an accomplished tourist, and can find strong points and weak ones alike in the defence and attack. He invokes the aid of Professor Ferrier against them both, and gives us, upon the whole, a very common-sense and readable essay. He admits that Mill has overthrown "a sort of philosophical reign of terror," and made way for a "crowd of critics to pull to pieces the edifices on which formerly they not only did not dare to lay a finger, but on which they had to look, or at least pretend to look, with reverence and awe." He does not agree with Mill upon everything—few do—and fancies that he can trace in him a change from conceptualism to nominalism, but he confesses that his consistency is "refreshing" when contrasted with Hamilton's contradictions. His least successful part in the Examination, he thinks, is where he treats of logic. "There has been a considerable tendency for some years to talk of induction in a wild and illogical manner; and perhaps Mr. Mill, in spite of Dr. Whewell's correction, does so as much as any other." This is strong language, and the reader is unfortunately referred "elsewhere" for further explanation. The second essay, for we have taken the last first, is on Arabic Peripateticism, based on M. Rénan's comparatively little known monograph, and will be very acceptable to many. The first one, on "The Infinite," is supposed to give the character to the book in the binder's eyes, for he has lettered it outside, "A Popular Essay on the Infinite," and such we expected to find it, to our dismay; but some Latin quotations, a little Greek, and a sprinkling of Hebrew soon quieted any apprehensions we naturally felt at what we might style the last new popular move. The essay has the merit of brevity and clearness, however, although the writer does not seem to have profited much by the "happy" way in which he admits, in his third essay, that Mr. Mill dealt with the philosophy of the Unconditioned. We give a sample. He is writing of the omnipresence and omniscience of God: "Man may conceal his purpose from his neighbour; the immature design may never ripen into action; and the one breast that nursed the nascent project may pass away from earth, the sole depositary of its secret existence, but ever from all time, ere the worlds were created, that secret was known, it is known now, and will be known for ever by Him to whom, in very truth, 'all hearts are open, and from whom no secrets are hid.'" Or, in another form, any foolish jest a man may utter, or any foolish trick he may do, was known "ere the worlds were created!" If this is not including in one's idea of the Infinite every possible attribute, good or bad, we are at a loss to know what it means. Mr. Shedden expresses his anxiety to have kept clear from theology in this essay, but one fancies he has gone a little

beyond it here. He also states that "if man thought aright," he would know that the "annihilation of all the worlds of infinity" is not more inherently difficult to effect than what he "considers the easiest" of the acts of Omnipotence. Such ideas somewhat stagger one out of our scientific catechism, but we admit that the theme is a bewildering one, and Mr. Shedden has, upon the whole, written honestly, plainly, and sensibly upon it, notwithstanding the binder's desire, if he has himself had no share in it, to popularize the Infinite.

Jerusalem: Its Bishop, its Missionaries, and its Converts, &c., &c. By Samuel M'Caul, B.C.L.—What earthly good can result to the cause of truth, or piety, or charity, by reviving a disgraceful scandal of eight years' standing, it would puzzle anyone but the editor of this pamphlet to imagine. Yet the prospect of benefit ought to have been both great and immediate to warrant the disinterment of such unsavoury stuff as is presented to us in these eighty pages. We have a hazy recollection of the proceedings of Bishop Gobat—who by the way is not the Bishop of Jerusalem—and his (not its) missionaries, and their (not its) converts, in 1858; which we were trying, in the interests of all the parties concerned in the fray, to forget as fast as we could. But Mr. M'Caul has, with most mischievous industry, culled from the leaves of the *Daily News* and the *Record* all the disgusting details of a series of scandals which never ought to have been published at all, and into which we are certainly not going to enter. These he has ranged in six chapters, plus an appendix; and Simeon Rosenthal, the publican, and Josephson, the tinman, and Isaak Block and Aaron Saphir, converts, and that precious scamp Hanna Hadoub, Bishop Gobat's special protégé, are all paraded before us in all their native ugliness; for the purpose, it seems, of aiding a private investigation which the Jews' Society has at last accorded to some of the aggrieved parties. Into the merits of the case we decline to enter; but two reflections occur to us on looking through these pages, with which we sum up our judgment of the case. 1. We have somewhere heard or read that "you cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear;" the attempt to make an English gentleman and bishop out of a Swiss artisan has proved equally unsuccessful. 2. A proverb used to be current in Palestine to this effect: "Physician heal thyself." We would strongly recommend its lesson to the Jews' Society, "its bishop, its missionaries, and its converts"—save the mark!

Haydn's Dictionary of Dates, relating to All Ages and Nations, for Universal Reference. Twelfth Edition, corrected to February, 1866, by Benjamin Vincent, Keeper of the Library of the Royal Institution. (E. Moxon and Co.)—Haydn's "Dictionary of Dates" is one of the most useful books of ready reference, and under the editorship of Mr. Vincent it is very much improved, the many errors from carelessness in the original compilation having been, during some ten years, nearly all uprooted by the editor's diligent revision, so that with each new issue it has become more and more correct. The chronological tables have all been carefully examined and continued; much geographical, historical, literary, and scientific information has been added; and the index, thoroughly rewritten, has been augmented by the insertion of dates relating to eminent persons of past and present times. With this twelfth edition is given a table of contemporary European sovereigns since the Conquest. Like all books of its class, the last edition is thus necessarily the one most to be desired.

Right Foods for Infants and Children. By the late T. Herbert Barker, M.D., F.R.S. (S. O. Beeton).—Those economical boarding-schools, if such still exist, in which puddings, heavy and greasy, are served up for dinner before meat, will certainly put this book of Dr. Barker's on their Index Expurgatorius. "The ordinary dietary of too many schools falls far short of the three substantial meals that should be allowed every day to growing boys and girls." And he well observes, "For success in life a vigorous body is, at least, as much required as a cultured mind. In behalf of numerous boys and girls at school, I must contend for a supply of the right food, and a sufficient quantity." Breakfast should be substantial: tea and coffee, with "un-

limited" supplies of new milk and bread-and-butter, are very well; but something more than even this should be done. Meat at least twice a-day is necessary for days of such school-labour as in these times of competition is everywhere required. Let the Fellows of Eton, and of other foundation schools where there is no real lack of means, consider this: "Sameness in cookery proves economical only through exciting disgust, and thus lessening consumption."

Chambers's Useful Handbooks.—Cricket, by Captain Crawley. Yachting and Rowing, by the Hon. Secretary of the Royal Eastern Yacht Club. Gymnastics, Golf, Curling. (W. and R. Chambers, London and Edinburgh).—These three little sixpenny books are all good of their kind. Their shape is convenient for the pocket, and their type suitable for those who wish to run and read. "Cricket" is popular, and divested of unnecessary slang. "Yachting" is abstruse and technical. The name of the author is alone guarantee enough for the accuracy of its science. The third volume contains a good deal of interesting matter, apart from its special object. The gymnasium of Liverpool appears to be indeed a noble building. The central hall is 105 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 60 feet high. The print at the head of the introduction explains the various purposes for which the area is destined. The author gives some very sensible directions for eating and drinking on pedestrian excursions. Many a Swiss tour is spoilt by indulging in a Homeric appetite, without the previous training, which is as necessary for the stomach as the legs which carry it.

The Harmonies of Nature; or, the Unity of Creation. By Dr. G. Hartwig. With numerous Woodcuts. (Longmans, Green, & Co.)—Every chapter of this book commences with some wonderful attempts at fine writing. For example: "Who can describe the splendour of the starry heavens! With vivid colours the painter imitates the blushing morn or the moonbeam dancing on the lake," &c., &c. It would be a great disadvantage to the best argument in favour of a Creator and a constantly presiding Providence, to be prefaced by bombastic sentences which have long since lost all the charm of novelty. But Dr. Hartwig can scarcely be said to aim at convincing. It is evident he only wants to hear himself speak. The slightest congruity between the thing which eats and its food, the mere presence of conditions which make existence possible, is quite enough for his purpose. "The dependence of human progress upon the existing configuration of the globe necessarily leads us to the conclusion that both must be the harmonious work of the same Almighty Power, and that a divine and immutable plan has from all eternity presided over the destinies of our planet." What will the defenders of the Deluge, and the doctrine of catastrophes say to the following passage? "A survey of the petrifications enclosed in the various strata of the earth adds new force to the conviction that one grand and uniform plan has constantly presided over all the period of its history. For here we find no chaotic confusion, no arbitrary oscillations from higher to lower, or from lower to higher grades of existence (as would undoubtedly have been the case if organic development had been left to casual influences), but a gradual and constant progression from inferior to more perfect forms of life." And again, "the space of time required for the formation of the coal-fields is as immeasurable as the countless millions of miles that separate us from Sirius." Dr. Hartwig has reserved the "right of translation." We should scarcely have thought there could be any copyright in sentences like the above.

We have received *Athenais; or, the First Crusade*, by W. Stigand (Moxon & Co.);—*The Journal of a London Playgoer, from 1851 to 1866*, by Henry Morley (Routledge);—*Men I have Known*, by W. Jordan (Routledge);—*Die Voelker des Oestlichen Asien; Studien und Reisen*, von Dr. Adolf Bastian (Trübner & Co.) And of Pamphlets, *The Redistribution of Seats and the Counties*, by R. Dudley Baxter (Stanford);—*The Unity of Comte's Life and Doctrine: a Reply to Strictures on Comte's Later Writings, Addressed to J. S. Mill, Esq., M.P.*, by J. H. Bridges (Trübner & Co.);—*The First Book of the Iliad of Homer Translated into Fourteen-syllable Verse*, by C. S. Simms (Manchester: Simms & Co.; London: Simpkin, Marshall & Co.);—*On the Value of the Edinburgh Degree of M.A.*, by P. G. Tait (Edinburgh: M'Lachlan & Stewart).

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HADES.*

IT is a surprising thing to be told that a future state of rewards and punishments, the announcement and authoritative declaration of which is generally said to be one of the distinguishing features of Christianity, has been an object of faith to almost every nation in all times of the world. And yet such an assertion would scarcely exceed the truth. When it came to pass that ears polite objected to be assailed by the mention of a certain place, the poet who clenched the observation by an immortal verse proclaimed that what was quite a moral revolution had taken place in the feelings and most powerful motives of human conduct. One of the great levers by which all hierarchies used to move the world had snapped in two. The belief in a material hell might still remain in the breasts of those who looked forward to a future state where the rich and the wicked man were almost synonymous terms; but the lower orders, in countries which are instructed through the press, can never be long retained in a superstition which educated people have discarded; and idle soon fell the threats which were only intended for one section of public congregations in which the great doctrine of spiritual equality must be constantly reiterated. There are still individuals whose moments are sometimes disturbed by the idea that corporeal torments may really form part of the great scheme of spiritual purification for which we are all, let us hope, ultimately destined; but such would consult the physician rather than the divine with advantage. The Dominicans of Toulouse may publish, even in the year of grace 1865, their "Recent Revelations on Purgatory," but they are careful to confine the circulation of their visions to penitents or refractories of their own order, and all the industry of M. Delepierre has failed to procure a copy of what, if true, would place the keys again in the hands of St. Peter's successors, and affiliate all the scientific societies of Europe to the seminary of the Gesù. It has often been said that man makes his own hell, as he does his own God. This is scarcely correct. In all the most ancient descriptions of the world below, offences against rituals and forms of religion are punished far more cruelly than those against morality. The craft of a priesthood is at once betrayed. After some time, a veil is thrown over this transparent device, and the most ingenious tortures are reserved for those who cheat, not their ministers, but the Gods themselves. The first person in every country who took away the power of life and death from the priests, or, in other words, who abolished human sacrifices, was always condemned to some appropriate and never-ending torment. Next came those who, like Ixion and Tantalus, had revealed the secrets of their order; men who, perhaps, had endeavoured to procure for mankind what a sect wished to seize for

themselves; or who, for the antagonism is by no means of modern date, had found the science of the day opposed to the esoteric faith of the dominant caste.

There were two reasons why the Hell of the Dark Ages presented such a disagreeable contrast to the sufficiently gloomy mansions of Pluto. The ferocity of the northern barbarians; the general devastation of Europe, and the notion of an immediate and ocular termination of the world, imported into the visions of those who saw beyond its boundaries an extraordinary accuracy and spirit of detail. Europe became a reservoir in which the fables of the past were mingled with the remnants of the Pagan religions. The thread of Ariadne, the absence of shadow, the unwinking eye, which the Thespisius of Lucian had observed when he went down to contemplate the delays of Jupiter in the punishment of the guilty, the Gehenna of the Jews, the *Amenti* or Hell of the Egyptians, the visible representations of which were at hand upon many a sarcophagus, each supplied a link in the chain of horrors. Passages in Scripture seemed to countenance the idea that the soul could leave the body unnoticed for a time, and traverse the realms of space. To visit the places for departed spirits would be the next thing to foreseeing the future, gratifying at once curiosity, faith, and that desire of immortality which is so inherent to man. Even now poets are loth to retreat from this vantage-ground for preaching immateriality. We have given up the idea of raising the Devil; but as he will not come to us, we are still resolved to pay him a visit with "Cain," or at least to approach his domains, and say we have "A Strange Story" to tell. Again, the resurrection in the flesh implied a possible eternity of the flesh; this would, of course, be for purposes of punishment as well as of salvation. The Scripture, indeed, gives no countenance to such an idea. But it does not authoritatively reject it. Fire and ice would play the most prominent parts in the economy of Hell, not only for other reasons, but also because of their conservative energy. The influence of fire is purifying as well as consuming. The grosser parts of the bad as well as of the good would be eradicated by that agent, and sufficient would remain to carry on identity of feeling and existence. The Northmen brought with them a natural horror of extreme cold, and an experiential knowledge of the resistance it could afford to decay. There is reason to believe the mammoths, two of which only are known to modern times, have formed an article of food from time immemorial to the Hyperboreans. The existence of perfect carcases who had left no living descendants must have suggested strange ideas even to the rudest minds. Their descriptions, recited in monasteries, were eagerly laid hold of by the morbid imagination of many a solitary.

It is not merely from interested motives that offences against rituals and forms are accounted the most heinous. The sins of the flesh only injure a small circle. False teaching drags multitudes down along with it. To enlarge the dominion of Satan, and increase the number of his subjects, was to propagate evil in a geometrical ratio; and those who believed that the rotation of the earth was caused by the demons struggling against the walls of their prison in the centre of our globe,

did right to fear that any abnormal increase in their numbers might end in what the Marquis Mirabeau would have called the "General Overturn."

There were not wanting, however, in the gloomiest times, men who revolted against these physical absurdities. A certain Godfrey, or Trithemius who reports for him, could not indeed dispense with the vehicle of visions to express his ideas; but he protests against the gross imaginations of the preachers and painters of the day. As for the latter, they perhaps had no choice. To dispense with space, and to express things spiritually, cannot be done on a frescoed wall a few feet square. Still earlier Erigena had denied the actual existence of Hell; and Origen had looked forward to the ultimate salvation of the Devil himself, in the spirit, if not in the very words of Burns—

Ye aiblins might, I dinna ken,
Still ha'e a stake.

It is well known the descriptions of Heaven bear no proportion in matter of precision and variety to those of its Antipodes. Here the visionaries were debarred from applying the experience of the body to the fabrication of eternal pleasures. The metaphor of light was the only one they were at liberty to employ. The ingenuity with which this was varied is astonishing; but still the picture is like that of an artist who paints with only one colour. Engelbrecht struggles to arrive at an "entire comprehension of the unity of the Trinity." First, he sees Our Saviour "under the form of a young man both luminous and transparent." Desirous to behold the Father, "a flame, brilliant beyond all description, leaps from the heart of the Son of God, and fills the heavens and the earth;" whilst the Holy Spirit manifests itself by "thousands of luminous rays, which emanate from every member of the Saviour."

The epoch of these visions seems to have been terminated almost contemporaneously with the invention of printing. Not that much importance is to be attached to the coincidence. Their cessation appears to be rather due to the operation of that extraordinary law, by which the seed of Christianity cannot shoot up into the mustard-tree of multitudinous branches without first becoming corrupt, and incorporating within itself all the grosser particles of the peculiar soil in which it may happen to be imbedded. As the reality of Hell has become more and more distasteful to modern conceptions, so has religious toleration become more and more a principle of our civilization; and undoubtedly the purification of our daily speech has been the natural consequence of a more indulgent view of Hades. That receptacle for departed spirits may still occupy a place on our drawing-room tables, or in our portfolios, in the shape of magnificent quartos; but we can scan a proof as we should a graven image, and whilst we cease to shudder with Dante, we are not so far removed from all sympathy with our ancestors as to be unable to revel in the riotous imagination of Doré.

EDGAR ALLAN POE.*

IMAGINE Beckford without money, and you have Poe. If intellects of a high order are capable of attaining, under

* "The Works of the Late Edgar Allan Poe." (London: Sampson Low, Son, & Co.; New York: J. S. Redfield.)

* "Le Livre des Visions, ou L'Enfer et Le Ciel. Décrits par Ceux qui les ont Vus." Par Octave Delepierre, Docteur en Droit et Secrétaire de Legation. (Londres: Tiré à 25 Exemplaires.)

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favourable circumstances, a moral excellence which seldom falls to the lot of ordinary mankind, the dangers which they incur in an untoward state of things are, on the other hand, pre-eminently great. A boy who is gifted with no extraordinary abilities runs far less risk of evincing in his after life traces of the corrupting influences by which his youth may have been surrounded, than one who is possessed of brilliant talents and a fervid imagination. The life of an Edgar Poe furnishes a fair comment on this view. The "victim of circumstances" is too generally the expression of a false philanthropy; but it would be difficult to conceive of conditions more unfavourable than those in the midst of which the boyhood of this gifted American was passed. A writer in the *Mental Science Review* (April, 1860) has, indeed, gone so far as to declare that his later career was merely the natural sequence of his juvenile education and certain hereditary antecedents. His father was an erratic law-student, who eloped with a gifted and beautiful actress, of a nature no less passionate and impulsive than his own. Their son, Edgar, was adopted by an old gentleman, and was subjected to the injudicious treatment of capricious indulgence and equally capricious severity, "and in process of time," says his psychological commentator, "the result comes out, exactly what any reasonable being should expect." Fostered in an atmosphere of selfishness, regard for self was the predominant characteristic of his life. In one of the most autobiographical of his tales, we are told that he "was left to the guidance of his own will, and became, in all but in name, the master of his own actions." The man was the natural development of the child. Years brought with them no increase in power of self-control. The fancy of the moment was the only law of action which he knew—to obtain it was his sole happiness; to fail in doing so, his sole misery. His expressions of grief are little more than the impotent ravings of one who has been baulked in a scheme of self-indulgence. He planned and plotted, and when he failed, he could invest himself with a halo of martyrdom. Success in others seemed to him a vice; "mankind was principally composed of villains," and the earth was "damned." Thus whenever he walked through the streets "it was in madness or melancholy, with lips moving in indistinct curses;" he experienced a morbid satisfaction in exaggerating his self-inflicted woes, till at last he regarded himself as lost, not only for time but for eternity. "He professed," we are told, "to feel that he was already damned." In his letters he loves to expatiate upon his agonies; he assumes tragic attitudes, and bursts into loud passionate wails. But it is impossible to escape from the notion that his primary object is to create an effect. He uses mysterious and grandiloquent language when he speaks of his errors or his sufferings—"his irregularities are the effect of a terrible evil rather than its cause." His solace was alcohol, and he anathematizes a world which has driven him into drink. Edgar Poe was consistent in all he did; whether we see him quarrelling with his guardian, or losing himself in dreams of ecstasy and love,—whether we watch him in his fits of study or debauch,—whether he loves to bury himself in retirement, or hurries off to join in the liberation of Greece—he is

essentially the same; there is before us the same undisciplined mind, the same utter abandonment to self. Such a character is no extraordinary one; the gifts which accompanied it can alone cause it to appear strange. Edgar Poe was simply a wilful, impulsive man, who, when his errors caused his fall, loved to represent himself as the victim of misinterpretation and wrong.

The man himself may be clearly seen in his writings. As far as any autobiography could, they give us an insight into the workings of his mind. All are, to a certain extent, tinged by the hues of gloominess and remorse. Even in his broadest humour there is a vein of ghastliness; the jester grins, but beneath the grin can be discerned the lineaments of the death's-head. The principal features in all his literary productions are a power of accurate analysis and infinitely minute description, and an exquisitely delicate appreciation of beauty and the beautiful. Beauty is, indeed, Poe's paramount conception; he considers it the "sole legitimate province of the poet;" it is "Beauty that abounds in Truth, constituting it True." But over all the "conqueror worm" is triumphant. His fancy leads him to dwell on tombs and epitaphs; he seldom rises to a strain which exults over the captive powers of death. In his poetry too, no less than in his letters, he takes a pleasure in parading his griefs. On the death of his wife he writes of himself—

No more—no more—no more—
Shall bloom the thunder-blasted tree,
Or the stricken eagle soar.

Yet, within a short space, we find him comparatively consoled and married again.

In all these outbursts of passionate sorrow there is a deficiency of true sentiment. We feel as we read them that they are essentially unreal. Beautiful as the language in which they are clothed is, musical as is the rhythm of the lines, there is a something wanting. They come altogether from the head; and with them the heart has nothing to do. We can see that each word has long been weighed before it has been written, that idea has been balanced against idea; but this is all. We are not listening to the utterance of a heart's agony. We are reminded of some structure of exquisitely-shaped crystals, tinged with a thousand prismatic hues, but which in spite of its beauty is formal and hard. Nothing could be more perfect than "Annabel Lee," but nothing could be more artificial. Poe has been more than once accused of plagiarism; but without any sufficient reason. That he was very strikingly original is not, perhaps, less untrue. When he succeeds in reaching novelty it is only after a painful effort, and the throes and toils of his mind are too apparent in the result. He was always ready to avail himself of any hints. It is more than probable that the "Raven" was suggested by one of the concluding lines in Mrs. Browning's poem of "Lady Geraldine's Courtship;" and as much was hinted to Poe by some friend. The result was that within a week an article, "The Philosophy of Composition," in which he gives a minute account of the genesis of the poem, appeared. Poe's prose writings embrace a variety of subjects; but whether he composes tales of terror or humour, or critical essays, his diction is but little different. Here, too, all is overhung by a shadow of mysterious gloom;

and is conspicuous for the same unnatural straining after effect. There is never anything omitted that is necessary for the perfect performance of his task, but the effort is evident. For this reason, a certain sense of oppression attaches to all he has written; we may read with intense interest, but we feel that the intellectual atmosphere which surrounds us is stiflingly close, and we are glad to escape from it. In this respect Edgar Poe widely differs from Defoe, whose minutest word-painting seems a perfectly spontaneous product—*ars celare artem*—and here the author of the "Raven" fails. The subjects which exercised his pen are such as we might expect from the nature of the man. Nothing is too ghastly for this chronicler of horrors to depict. Death, desolation, insanity, are his favourite themes. His analytic power enables him to dissect the elements of intellectual maladies or to investigate self-tangled webs of evidence, with equal skill. Pathos he knows not how to create: his tears and his laughter are alike unreal; a hard artificiality mars the effect of everything he ever wrote. But if he gloats over the charnel, he can luxuriate in the palace. He revels in gorgeous saloons decorated with priceless paintings, rich tapestries, and gleaming gold. His heroes repose upon "silken velvet," and read out of "the rarest and most magnificently-bound books." Nothing pleases him better than to call suddenly into being, with the magic wand of his fancy, halls of overwhelming splendour and arabesque richness. Hence, there is a constant tendency in his narratives to blend the actual with the ideal. When earth could furnish him with no images adequate for his conception of beauty or of ghastly terror, he has resource to the supernatural. His language is ever appropriate to his thought, and is chosen with perfect taste. With the exception, perhaps, of a tendency towards a too frequent use of epithets, his style is faultless.

It is difficult to say what would have been the result had Edgar Poe in his youth received a careful mental and moral training; or what change, had his life been prolonged, his mind and writings might have undergone. His friends appear to have loved him as deeply as his enemies hated him. Of good qualities he was not destitute, but all were subordinate to a transcendent selfishness. A child, when hurt, loses itself in feeble paroxysms of uncalculating anger against the object, whether animate or inanimate, that has given it pain; and in this way Edgar Poe was a child through all his life. There are some persons whom affliction cannot soften, but renders the more stubborn, and he was one. In his character there is nothing mysterious or inexplicable, and his writings reflect his life. All that he saw or felt was through the medium of self. In his poetry, as in all his other productions, there is much that we may well admire for extraordinary ingenuity, but nothing that can excite our sympathies or raise our love.

COMTE, MILL, AND BRIDGES.

The Unity of Comte's Life and Doctrine. A Reply to Strictures on Comte's Later Writings, addressed to J. S. Mill, Esq., M.P. By J. H. Bridges, Translator of "Comte's General View of Positivism." (Trübner & Co.)

It was a common complaint of Comte in his life-time, that he was appreciated intellectually in England, but not morally. He

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would have modified his opinion, had he survived to see the eloquent exposition of his religion by Mr. Bridges. The defenders of Sir William Hamilton have no intention of letting Mr. Mill walk over the ground; and the worshippers of Humanity are equally averse to permitting certain articles in the *Westminster Review* being considered as an unanswerable exposition of all that is good and all that is worthless in the scriptures of Positivism. It is quite true that many will take their view of Comte from Mill, just as they do their estimate of Bacon from Lord Macaulay. There is an appearance of impartiality, and so great a concurrence of opinion, that it is difficult to believe there can be any radical misconception or glaring misstatement in Mr. Mill's analysis of the Positive Philosophy. But the best guardians have always wanted looking after themselves, and we shall render no slight service to our readers if we give an outline of the very remarkable pamphlet before us.

It is Mr. Mill's own expression that he accepts the "backbone" of Comte's philosophy: the law of the three stages through which all human conceptions pass; his classification of the sciences, based on their relative simplicity or complicity, which determine the rapidity of their transition through these stages; and, finally, the analysis of the history of man. But Mr. Mill does more than this. He acknowledges the claims of Positivism to be a religion. He aspires to the direct cultivation of altruism, and the subordination of egoism to it far beyond the point of absolute moral duty. On "the rights of children," the two philosophers also are at one. Like Comte, Mill speaks with profound respect of the principle involved in modern Communism; like him, he wholly rejects the Communistic solution. But neither are prepared to interfere with the present system by any violent or artificial steps. In three important points respecting the theory of the Family they also agree; and also in the view that "no respect is due to any employment of the intellect, which does not tend to the good of mankind." All these points are included in the "later speculations" of Comte respecting which such hard words have been freely used. And is there, after all, "a fundamental discrepancy between his earlier and later speculations?" As early as 1826, before the publication of the '*Philosophie Positive*,' Comte had put forth an essay, entitled 'Considerations on the Spiritual Power.' This idea, therefore, was by no means the product of any strange hallucination of his old age. His larger work was wrought out, not as an end in itself, but in obedience to this master-motive, as the necessary basis for a renovated education, the foundation of a new social order. From his earliest years he intended his philosophy to prepare the organization of a spiritual power, as the one most essential condition for the regeneration of European society. Whatever prestige therefore of mental vigour attaches to the name of Comte may be claimed for his social no less than for his philosophic views.

Nor did he ever pretend to that infallibility he has sometimes been accused of. Everything he had done required, in his opinion, the most complete and searching revision. He had founded Positivism; but had not been able to constitute it. Its future growth appeared to him to be inexhaustible. But Comte has been charged with an inordinate desire for Unity, and with being desirous of "establishing a despotism of society over the individual, surpassing anything contemplated in the political ideal of the most rigid disciplinarian among the ancient philosophers." "Like the extreme Calvinists, he requires that all believers shall be saints, and damns them (after his own fashion) if they are not." Now what did Comte mean by Unity? Certainly not Objective Unity. Thus "the necessary identity of the various natural forces, gravitation, heat, vitality, &c., found no favour in his eyes. Such attempts as those of Mr. Herbert Spencer to show the probable

origin of all natural forms, inorganic and organic, from nebulous matter, would have appeared to him as chimerical as the endeavours of Thales and other metaphysicians of antiquity to deduce all things from the principle of Water or of Fire." This was an Idol of the Tribe, in Baconian phraseology. But Subjective Unity, in its largest sense, forms indeed the essence of Comte's philosophy. It is that condition of human thoughts, feelings, and actions, which would combine the maximum of energy with the minimum of waste. To some such a state of Health—that is to say, the greatest energy of each component part which is compatible with the energy of the whole—is the most difficult and incomparably the most important of human problems. Comte pointed out how to approximate towards its solution. It has been the aim of all religious teachers. This is Religion in the deepest sense of the word. There is an unseen object of worship, Humanity, and a concentration on that object of thought, emotion, and action. "If Religion, as Mr. Herbert Spencer and Professor Huxley appear to think, implies simply the recognition of the Unknowable, meaning by this nothing similar to the old Athenian recognition of an Unknown God, but merely the bare and obvious fact that human knowledge is finite, why, then, it is a matter which need occupy but a small share of our attention. A religion that involves no adoration, no sacrifice, no practical duties, is no religion at all."

Comte was as desirous to apply moral control to intellectual exertion as the Church of Rome. "To economize our intellectual force, to apply it with the greatest advantage and the least waste to the solution of the arduous problems with which the life of Humanity was surrounded, was, from first to last, one principal object of his life." He appealed to his own, to the scientific men of France, and they would not have him. Even Mr. Mill has rejected the appeal. He can distort the truth by saying that "M. Comte gradually acquired a real hatred for scientific and all purely intellectual pursuits." Yet the last treatise he ever wrote was on the "Philosophy of Mathematics." It has often been urged that the most abstract, and apparently useless investigations have not unfrequently led to the most practical discoveries. Conic sections, for instance, were studied by the Greeks, without suspicion of their relation to astronomy. Mr. Bridges well observes this was almost inevitable in the early days of science. It is of no use to point out isolated instances, where random researches have led to discoveries of unexpected magnitude. It is time to ascertain in which direction research is likely to be most profitable; and, moreover, accidental discoveries may arise as readily in the one case as in the other; whilst between the direct results there can, of course, be no comparison. Comte laid no claim to be an infallible judge of what was best to be done. That he was a good judge, Mill himself would not deny.

Again, Positivist Unity is far from being inconsistent with individual liberty. But it does not pretend to dispense with government. It hopes, indeed, to diminish physical compulsion to an infinitesimal degree; but its complete extinction, though it may be approached, will never be attained for all. The "despotic" character which has been attributed to Comte's system has no real existence. A question cannot be usefully proposed without an attempt at solution. It was necessary to suggest specific numbers, in order to explain his ideas for the practical guidance of society, and to make his meaning clear, distinct, and precise. The irreligion of the literary classes appears to the Positivist not a normal but an abnormal state. Spiritual authority has far more often used its power beneficially than otherwise. It will be the business of this last and Universal Church to avoid the abuses of former systems. "Some attempt to place the few wise above the vast majority of the less wise

and the foolish, imperfect as such attempt has always been, and will inevitably be, seems one of the permanent necessities of society, a necessity as cogent in its most advanced as in its earliest period." At all events, we cannot dispense with wisdom now. We are not whole, and have need of a physician. The best advice we can get will be sometimes wrong; but it is better than chance. "Industrialism unmoralized is even more dangerous and debasing to humanity than feudalism unchristianized: as more so as when moralized it will be nobler and more elevating." Positivism attempts to compose the strife between Labour and Capital. Positivism aims at "redress for all mankind." The democracy of the passions finds no more favour in its eyes than in those of Mr. Mill. Neither party allow that every instinct of man's nature has equal right to free development. Both wish to impose very firm restrictions both of government and opinion on man's animal passions. "Through-out the whole scale of being, obedience to Law is the primary condition of freedom."

Mr. Bridges concludes thus:—

There are two inseparable aspects of the social problem: union of efforts, individuality of efforts. The first is for us, in the present generation at least, the more important and the more difficult. And once realized, this involves the other far more surely than the other this. One word sums up the whole. You seek nobleness of life through liberty. We think that the highest liberty is that which comes unsought through nobleness of life.

In a note of some twelve pages, the author goes more minutely into some special points of Mr. Mill's criticism. We have contented ourselves with giving an abstract of his pleading, couched as often as possible in his own language. It is a noble exposition of what he evidently believes Positivism to be. It is possible that the disciple may be above his master. It is certain that he can expound his creed in a way that must command respect even from those who differ from him more widely than Mr. Mill.

Mr. Poulett Scrope contributes a paper to the *Geological Magazine* "On the Origin of Valleys," which contains long extracts from his work "On the Geology of Central France," published in 1827. He considers that experience and observation have done everything to confirm the views therein expressed on the power of rain "as a denuding agent," which has been called in question by one or two recent writers on the subject. Professor Owen describes part of the lower jaw and teeth of a small Oolitic mammal, to which he proposes to give the name of *Stylodon Pusillus*, from the shape of the tooth. The discovery of a recent species of *Trigonia* in the tertiary deposits of Australia, by Mr. Jenkins, is very interesting to those palaeontologists who speculate on the origin of recent fauna.

We have received *The Floral World* and *Hardwicke's Science Gossip*.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE WEEK.

- ADDISON (Lieut.-Colonel H. R.). Paris Social: a Sketch of Every-day Life in the French Metropolis. With Engravings. Fesp. 8vo, pp. xi.—218. Dutton and Co. 2s. 6d.
- ANNANDALE (T.). Surgical Appliances and Minor Operative Surgery. Fesp. 8vo. MacLachlan and Stewart (Edinburgh). Hardwicke. 6s.
- ARNOLD (Rev. Thomas Kerchever, M.A.). First Hebrew Book. 3rd Edition, revised. 12mo, pp. xii.—262. Livingston. 7s. 6d.
- BARKER (T. Herbert, M.D., F.R.S.). Right Foods for Infants and Children. Fesp. 8vo, 8d., pp. 48. Beeton. 6d.
- BARLETT (W. H.). Pilgrim Fathers; or, Founders of New England in the Reign of James I. With Engravings. New Edition. 8vo, pp. 230. Nelson. 6s.
- BENTON'S Book of Anecdote, Jokes, and Jest: being a Collection of Wise and Witty Things in Prose and Verse; together with a Selection of Curious Epitaphs. 8vo, pp. vii.—375. Beeton. 3s.
- BELL (Catherine D.). Douglas Family. New Edition. 18mo, pp. 182. Wayne. 1s. 6d.
- Arnold Lee; or, Rich Children and Poor Children. New Edition. 18mo, pp. 186. Wayne. 1s. 6d.
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SCIENCE.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE BELGIAN ACADEMY.

THE Royal Academy of Science, Literature, and Fine Arts has just celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its reconstruction. The Academy was founded in the year 1772, by the Empress Maria Theresa, by the consolidation of the Literary Society which was formed in 1769, under the influence of Cobenzl, the celebrated minister. After the Revolution, the Academy was suppressed, but it was re-established on the 7th of May, 1816, by Royal warrant, and it is the fiftieth anniversary of this event which has just been celebrated with much éclat. The proceedings commenced with an address by M. Faider, the President of the Academy, at the Ducal palace, at which the Royal family and several members of the Court attended. M. Faider sketched the history of the Academy, and dwelt particularly on the benefits conferred upon literature, science, and art, by the late King Leopold. This was followed by a symphony for orchestra and organ,

written by M. Fétis expressly for the occasion. The organ part was entrusted to M. Lemmens, who, it will be remembered, visited this country a year or two ago, and M. Fétis conducted. The work is very highly spoken of by the Belgian papers. The most interesting part of the commemoration, in a scientific point of view, was the admirable address of M. Quetelet, the well-known Director of the Brussels Observatory, in which he gave a history of the labours of the Academy during the last half century, and of the most important papers to be found in the *Mémoires*, mentioning, amongst others, the "Aperçu Historique sur l'Origine et le Développement des Méthodes de la Géométrie," by M. Chasles, who received the medal of the Academy in 1830. The student will find in this paper an admirable account of the methods and development of modern geometry. He also referred to the collection of observations on the periodic phenomena of the animal and vegetable kingdom, which were commenced in 1840 by a few Belgian savants, and are still carried on. The idea of such a system of observations is not new, and in the last century Linnaeus and his friends were occupied with them. The establishment of an extended series of simultaneous observations of this nature is, however, we believe, due to the Royal Academy of Belgium. M. Quetelet also mentioned the services which the Academy had rendered to the science of meteorology. In 1853, a congress was held at Brussels, which was attended by delegates from the principal maritime powers, to arrange a universal system of meteorological observations. It was proposed to make use of the merchant navies for collecting statistics. So far as this country was concerned, the Board of Trade, being in connexion with the mercantile marine, undertook to distribute the necessary forms. This is the way in which that department became connected with meteorology, but the original object—the collection of statistics by merchant vessels—has been almost entirely abandoned. To return, however, to M. Quetelet's address, which, after giving a brief notice of the results of the labours of the Literary Section of the Academy, concluded with a sketch of the history of the Fine Arts Section, which was only created in 1845, at which period the Literary Section also commenced an independent existence. The Fine Arts Section has done much to foster and encourage the modern Belgian school of painting, of which MM. Leys, Gallait, and others are such worthy representatives. In connexion with this section, a fund, called the "Caisse Centrale des Artistes," has been formed for the relief of the widows and orphans of artists.

The reading of a poem, entitled "Les Vieux," written for the occasion by M. Mathieu, and the distribution of the medals to the authors of the prize essays, next followed, and the ceremony was brought to a conclusion by the investiture of M. Quetelet with the insignia of the Order of Leopold.

In the evening a grand banquet took place, the chair being occupied by M. Faider, the President of the Academy. The most popular toast was the health of M. Omalius d'Halloy, the veteran geologist, and director of the Science Section, and the only surviving member of those who witnessed the reorganization of the Academy in 1816. The first geological map of Belgium was, we believe, drawn up under his direction, and he is, perhaps, the greatest living authority upon the geology of that country.

Thus terminated the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the youngest, but certainly not the least active, of continental academies.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

THE Belgian Academy of Literature proposes the following subjects for the concours of 1867: 1. The influence of the political ideas and literary peculiarities of Chastelain. 2. In the present state of the world and of economical and political science, can colonization enter into the sphere of action of European nations, and if so, to what purposes, and by what means. This question is to be treated in its general bearings upon the history of the colonies of ancient and modern nations, and upon the conditions of existence and the interests of Europe, and more especially with regard to those of Belgium. 3. Write the history of the Penal Code of the ancient Duchy of Brabant. 4. In what manner can "self help" be best promoted among the working classes, and what reforms and institutions will contribute the most quickly and efficaciously to their well-being and independence? 5. On the political and social tendency of heresies from the origin of Christianity to the commencement of the 16th

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century. The author is to confine himself, as far as possible, to a discussion of the social and political tendency of the different religious sects, without entering into doctrinal questions. The prize for the best essay on the first subject is a gold medal, value 1,600 francs; for the second question, the prize is one of 1,500 francs. The writers of the best essay on the third, fourth, and fifth questions will each receive a prize of 1,000 francs. The memoirs may be written in French, Flemish, or Latin, and must be in the hands of M. Quetelet, the perpetual Secretary, before the 1st of February, 1867.

THE department devoted to objects of industry belonging to prehistoric times, at the Paris Exhibition next year, promises to be a very interesting one. The subject has been taken up in Belgium, and a sub-committee has been appointed for the purpose of arranging a collection of objects which shall represent the industry of the early inhabitants of that country. The sub-committee consists of the following: MM. Fortamps, Ed. Romberg, De Cannart d'Hamale, A. de Borkenfeld, members of the Paris Exhibition Commission for Belgium; MM. Alvin, Chief Keeper of the Royal Library; De Brou, Commissioner of the Royal Museum of Painting and Sculpture; Decoster; G. Frederix; Juste, Curator of the Royal Museum of Antiquities; and Piron-Vanderton, of the Committee for Improving the Methods of Teaching the Art of Drawing. This list of names is sufficient to show that the Belgian contribution to the "Galerie de l'Histoire du Travail" will not be the least interesting. The explorations of the Belgian bone-caves, which have been carried on for many months past by M. Dupont, have brought many interesting objects to light.

At the last meeting of the Chemical Society of Paris, Dr. Phipson called attention to the sudden fall of temperature which occurs when certain metals are mixed together at the ordinary temperature of the atmosphere. The most extraordinary descent of temperature occurs when 207 parts of lead, 118 of tin, 284 of bismuth, and 1,617 of mercury are alloyed together. The external temperature being at $+170^{\circ}$ centigrade at the time of the mixture, the thermometer instantly falls to -10° below zero. Even when these proportions are not taken with absolute rigour, the cold produced is such that the moisture of the atmosphere is immediately condensed on the sides of the vessel in which the metallic mixture is made. The presence of lead in the alloy does not appear to be so indispensable as that of bismuth. Dr. Phipson explains this fact, by assuming that the cold is produced by the liquefaction at the ordinary temperature of the air of such dense metals as bismuth, &c., in their contact with the mercury.

SCIENTIFIC CORRESPONDENCE.

TAYLOR'S "NAME OF THE BEAST."

THE calculations on p. 330 would not have been let alone by the redoubtable Professor whose "crotchet about 666" in the *Athenæum* of December 23 they undertook to rectify, had they contained any such fallacies as "T. K. A." imputes, if, indeed, such could have slipped into a page of THE READER. The results, of course, only professed to be rough specimens of a part of the calculation possible; and while prepared to show that, owing to the many factors I neglected, they keep far under the minima that any full investigation would bring out, I admit these instalments to require lowering for two of the reasons adduced by "T. K. A.," as well as raising for others. But to take his paper (p. 448) in order, not one question raised in its first eight paragraphs (even had he correctly treated them, which he has not) would have the slightest bearing on either of mine, which were, (1) the odds on whether the riddle referred to some or to none of these four: Solomon's revenue, *ἑντοπία*, *παράδοσις*, and *ἡ ἀλαζονεία βίου*; and (2) the odds on whether it were of human origin or such as its writer represented. The latter odds must plainly be always less than the former, and dependent thereon. We cannot estimate the chances whether a prediction is human or not, before settling to what events it referred, and must always be more certain *what* these are than *whether* it was superhuman. Yet it is my starting on this *second* question, that "T. K. A." takes for the subject of his first paragraph. Whatever he may mean by a single event, viewed alone, happening "by chance" or "by design"—a distinction quite beyond my comprehension—the first words he quotes as

"an error" could not possibly relate to such an event. They are, "The chance of the coincidence here was but 1 in 200." Does a coincidence mean one event, or two? His imaginary drawing of a lottery-prize is no coincidence at all, being but one event. Why he alters my 200 into a "lottery of 1,000 tickets and one prize" I know not; but as we shall find, strangely enough, that 1,000 was really just the number I ought to have used as a minimum, the change is convenient. Well, "If we know," says he, "that the drawer had a motive for choosing this number [the winning one] . . . the odds are 999 in favour of design." Is not this our case, then? Had "the drawer" of 666 from the Old Testament no motive for choosing that number? Was its being set forth in John's prediction no motive? Was the drawer's belief that this prediction was fulfilled, or fulfilling, by something whose name at John's city he had found to cipher it, no motive? If not a motive for "drawing" the number from a concordance, was it any motive for observing what was the number of the largest Scriptural entry of *ἑντοπία*? Why was any of "T. K. A.'s" first paragraph written, then?

2. I flatly deny the assertion of the middle of paragraph 2. The question is not "What are the odds that a word notating the same number is not found in the New Testament by chance;" nor could the odds thereon anyway help us. Those odds would be a function of the number of words in the New Testament, the number in all Greek literature then extant, and the proportion of these that ciphered 666; and without all these data we could not even tell on which side the odds lay. We may presume (but cannot assert, as "T. K. A." does) that they were not against such occurrence, because two such words do occur. These odds, whatever they were, would be the same in the case of any book, or collection of books, containing 3,000 nouns. But when we come to the totally different question, there being two such nouns found in a given set of documents, what are the odds that these words, or either of them, were intended by the vision and riddle—not, observe, "fixed on by St. John," as "T. K. A." constantly persists in assuming directly contrary to that author's *undisputed* statements—in this question, I say that it makes a difference incalculable whether the said documents be or be not the collection set apart and canonized by John's co-religionists, or rather by all who have ever admitted his own pretensions; and that if 100 such words were known elsewhere, and only one or two in the Bible, creeds, and decrees of General Councils, then, as long as the supposition were made that none had yet fulfilled any part of the prediction, the odds for those one or two would far outweigh any for the supposed hundred. Moreover, if the word were not in documents known to John's first readers, the caution, "He that hath an ear, let him hear," would be absurd.

3. Reasoning equally foreign to the questions brings "T. K. A.," by a "liberal supposition" he says, not farther than to this "assumption with which 'E. L. G.' starts, though he thinks it unnecessary even to state it"—namely, that the riddle was framed with a view to a solution, or, in other words, was not a joke. As I have yet to hear of any person who ever doubted this, I certainly did not think it necessary either to state it, or now to verify his odds. If they are, as he says, 2,000 to 1 for a solution being intended, or for "such a solution" being intended (whichever he means), the effect would be to diminish my results in the ratio of 2,001 to 2,000. [By the way, high-numbered words are not, as here stated, more "usually round" than low ones. The presence of heavy letters has no tendency to hinder a word's having any α , β , or other unit letters, nor to make them sum into even tens.]

4, 5. The root fallacy of "T. K. A." is that every position in the next five paragraphs hangs on a *petitio principii*, which he "thinks it even unnecessary to state." If we know, says he, any "other reason for 666 being selected in preference to any other number, . . . then there are no odds against its being chosen without regard to the coincidence." That is, we must assume it chosen solely for that reason in favour of which are the most odds, the odds for all others vanishing. Certainly, if the chooser was no way superior to "T. K. A." or me. But this is begging the whole question with regard to any professed prophecy. If the "seer," as "T. K. A." inconsistently calls him, "chose" this number, and "intended" that thing or the other, he was in these matters no seer. "If he intended the riddle to be solved one way," have

I not said as plainly as "T. K. A." that he did not intend any other? Did I not lay it down as my very starting-point towards the second question, that "Men do not contrive riddles to be thus solved in two independent ways"? Now, "T. K. A." bases all he says, on the assumption, not even stated, that the whole was the contrivance of a man! This, in the teeth of "the seer's" own allegations throughout the book, against which "T. K. A." has not pretended a shadow of discrediting evidence, is as puerile as to go and base an argument with Mahometans or Mormons on the *postulate* that their prophet was a false one.

Some designer being admitted, even by "T. K. A." (par. 8) the whole question is whether he was a man. A variety of independent reasons producible for one choice, and many unknowable to man when it was made, can only multiply odds against his being man, or that he was what the book alleges. It is only if the whole question we are to examine be preassumed, that one such reason will destroy the probabilities of another having operated; and in that case all further ones for the number would be excluded by that found by the early Fathers: that there might be a parallelism between the names of the Christ and the Antichrist, that of the former making 888, and each being a trinity, and their deeds connected with the numbers 6 and 8 respectively—*e.g.*, in the week-days, and the days of creation. The Lord suffered on the sixth day of the week, and triumphed on the eighth. And it was in the sixth great earth-day, or that immediately preceding this present post-diluvian Sabbath in which we live, that mankind (as geology now shows) were created and fell, who in the eighth are to be perfected.* But I will submit, as worthy of infinite Benevolence, another reason for the number, possibly new to you. It is a physiological fact that, to all races yet Christianized, 666 is, of all combinations of three figures, the most mnemonic. It is more so than 888, or any of the nine such repetitions, for this reason. The sharp sound of *s*, and of the double letters compounded thereof, *z*, *x*, *ψ*, is known so to affect the ear, that anciently an orator was hissed for using too many words together containing it, and our translators introduce their awkward "threescore" to avoid "sixty." Now, *ἑξακόσια ἑξήκοντα* has four hissings nearer together than any other numeral phrase in Greek (none having more than four), and when translated into any other tongue of Christendom it gives five or six, always more than any other figures read in the same language. This ugliness of sound, making it the most unforgettable number of a thousand; to all these nations, I call a worthy reason for any contriver who might be able—but no man was able—to connect it with our destined Adonikam.†

Though facts are said to be "God's words"—and, if they are not, I know not what else are—"T. K. A." finding the largest Biblical entry of *ἑντοπία* "merely a fact," and commenting on whether it was arranged to suit a word (another fact), *thinks* "the chances of this may be put a great deal lower than those of an accidental occurrence." From "examining the calculations," then, his final appeal is to "I think." It is as good as the Liverpool circle-squarer, who lately disposed of a corrector's trigonometry thus: "Does he wish me to believe that the difference between the arc and the sine of 15° can only be $10'$, the difference between the arc and sine of 30° being $1^{\circ} 21'$? If so, I emphatically tell him I do not believe it!" Now, I will tell "T. K. A." something I do not believe, and challenge him to prove or make it probable: that there has been one fact in the universe which any other fact was not "arranged to suit."

6. This only repeats fallacies I have disposed of, except the last. I have not approved Alcasar's name of the Beast, but if I had admitted that "the name need not even be a single word," the effect on odds would be *opposite* to what "T. K. A." supposes. The percentage of words and combinations making 666 to words and combinations making other numbers, would be smaller than that of words alone making 666 to single words that do not. This I prove (taking Professor De Morgan's word) thus: He said 666 was the mean weight of such words of eight letters as have no ϕ , χ , ψ , or ω . Without excluding these letters, his method (taking four times the mean of all the vowels and four times

* The Noachian salvation, too, hung on eight persons, and the Mosiac covenant on circumcision "the eighth day."

† Lord of enemies, the name of the clan in Zorobabel's muster-roll, Ezra ii. 13 (whose number is contradicted in the other copy, Nehem. vii. 18.)

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that of all the consonants, with about one additional σ , would give for the mean of all eight-lettered words 1,385, so that 666 he really makes about the mean of four-lettered words. Now four, being below the average number of letters in words, must be nearer thereto than to the average in combinations of words. Hence combinations must more rarely give 666 than single words do, and their admission, instead of "vastly" increasing, would have diminished the proportion that I found 1 in 1,500.

7. Supposing a number fixed on for some other reason, "T. K. A." tells us, "whatever number he had fixed on, we should be sure to find also in the Old Testament." Is it so? Then please to find 665, or any of the twelve below it. He will find it is 4 to 1 that any given three-figure number is not there; for, out of these 900 numbers, the Bible, which he says "is full of" them, contains not 180. Now my counting of these was really only necessary to show that there are not 900, for as long as this is the case their number affects not my inquiry. It is as if 180 things were distributed through 900 boxes, and an augur said you would find what he named in box No. 666. The odds against finding anything in it would depend on the number of things, or of boxes occupied; but not so the odds against its having the thing named, which would be always 899 to 1. But as there was no reason for excluding the two-figure numbers, I should have called it 999 to 1, even had there been no four or five-figure ones, of which there are several, ranging (without their round parts) up to 60,355. Plainly, then, my "199" should have been above 1,000 to 1. Now, just mark "T. K. A.'s" positions in three lines of this paragraph: He first says the odds against a given number being in the Bible are "none;" next, that they are infinitely negative, or that it is sure to be found; again, that I assumed it was 199 to 1 against a given number occurring "in the Bible at all." The facts are—(a) that the odds against this were really above 4 to 1; (b) that I wholly neglected them, nay, reckoned like him, infinite odds the other way, or that the finding was certain; and (c) that what I did estimate at 199 to 1—namely, those against the largest entry of *ἐντοπία* being 666—were really above five times more!

8. The 300,000, which thus ought to have been 1,500,000 to 1, have no kind of connexion with what he here invents. They are simply the odds that a given thing would not have both its chief Biblical entry 666, and also the only name by which any citizen of John's seven cities can be shown to have called it ciphering that number. Now, as a thing has both, these would, in the absence of any fulfilled prediction or other evidence, be the odds that the riddle, whatever else it might be framed for, was framed to refer to this thing. And if we knew it to be a man's framing, these would also be the odds "that it was not framed with a view to some other solution." But to ask this about anything not proved to be human, "T. K. A." might just as well ask Guillemin, "if such are the odds that the spectrum discoveries indicate the sun's atmosphere to contain metals, what are the odds that they will not indicate some other fact?"

9. It matters not how many words a Greek scholar might assign if asked to name that which has its largest entry 666. He must be asked for a name demonstrably borne by it among the first readers of the Apocalypse—one, if there be one, proved to be then in use at those seven cities; because the words, peculiar to this and the opening chapters, "If any man have an ear" (not "shall have") "let him hear," implies that a lesson was to be learnt then and there. Now, while insisting that *ἐντοπία* has the weighty distinction of being the only such word recorded to have been used by an Ephesian to his townsmen, yet, as the same record and the epistles to the Ephesians and Timothy afford *χρησὸς* and *πλοῦτος*, I will on this account divide by 3. Thus the factor consisting of the odds against such a coincidence as was implied by the prediction using (v. 16–18) the two expressions "its number" and "the number of its name," while only one number is given—the odds against that whose chief entry in Scripture was 666 having among St. John's first readers any name ciphering 666—is reduced to 500. I should make a similar reduction for any exact synonyms of *παράδοσις* or of *ἡ ἀλαζονία βίου*, but not for any odds against a person informed only of the Beast's name, discovering by mother-wit the two weapons (whether these be they or not). The odds against such discovery touch only the question how far the book merits its title. A portion teaching us nothing that we could not discover

without its aid, would be no Revelation. Al-cassar's discovery, by the way, was no more "an erroneous reading" than is *ἐντοπία* for *ἡ ἐντοπία*. The omission of an article, and of one only, is strictly analogous in extracting each, and he shows why grammatically proper.

10 (the note). Al-cassar's and Taylor's solutions are not held together. Had the prediction implied that three things were each to have "the number of its name" 666, these could not be two of them. But it plainly ties us to no such condition in any but the Beast's name. Now I can prove that *ἐντοπία* fulfils every particular of what this earth-beast was to do, and does so by *παράδοσις* as one instrument. Proof of this being absolute, whatever may be the odds that the former is the Beast are also the odds that the latter is one horn. Hence, the coincidence of their name-number, though nowise predicted, yields another factor of 1,500, whether the name of the other horn yield any or not. But if I am right about this last, its name, too, is so coincident as only one word in 750 can be; for, if every word had two spellings and gave two numbers, only one in 750 would give 666 at all. Moreover, this fact about it has actually taught, has done the work of a word of God in the world. This coincidence, therefore, yields a factor, though only half what I said.

Thus my results, multiplied by 5, but divided by 3 and 2, stand at this stage reduced in the ratio of 6 to 5. I promise "T. K. A." with your leave, in a shorter letter, to recover this loss some thousandfold. E. L. G.

IS THE EARTH AN OBLATE OR A PROLATE SPHEROID?

9 St. Mark's Crescent, Regent's Park.

IN Dr. Pratt's letter in your journal of April 28, he seems to argue that modern astronomers and geometers are in error as to the true figure of the earth. His words are: "In conformity with the assumed oblate figure of the earth, arcs of the meridian should progressively diminish from the equator to the poles. In fact, these arcs become longer with advance in this direction." And he goes on to advance a theory of some polar attraction in space which has drawn out the earth at the poles instead of flattening it, as is commonly, but he thinks erroneously, assumed. Von Gumpach has been long asserting the very same thing, and has importunately called the attention of our Government to the fact, that numbers of vessels are annually lost owing to the impossibility of calculating their true position, so long as navigators mistake the very figure of the globe they are travelling over. But his warnings have been all in vain. The Admiralty persist in refusing to alter the Nautical Almanack, and the philosopher thinks he has just cause of complaint because the Astronomer Royal will neither accept his conclusions nor point out the flaw in his argument.

Now that a mathematician and astronomer like Dr. Pratt takes up the very same ground as Von Gumpach, it seems time that the matter should be clearly explained; and, with your permission, though neither an astronomer nor mathematician, I will endeavour to do so; and I have the more hope of succeeding because I once felt a difficulty as to the very same point myself.

The fact (universally stated in works on astronomy and geodesy) that degrees of the meridian increase in length towards the poles, on account of the earth's compression at the poles, is, indeed, one well calculated to mystify a mere mathematician, though it is clear enough to anyone who reflects on the various conditions involved in the problem. If we look at the diagram of a sphere, and the space from the equator to the pole be divided into equal parts subtending angles of one degree each at the centre, and we then flatten the poles by cutting off a portion with a curve of greater radius, it is evident that the distance from the pole to the centre of the sphere will be shorter than before, and therefore, that degrees of latitude, measured angularly from that centre, would really diminish in length from the equator towards the poles.

But in our actual rotating globe, the unequally curved surface is one of equilibrium, owing to the varying centrifugal force at different latitudes; and, as degrees of a meridian can only be measured upon the surface by tangents or perpendiculars to it (obtained by the spirit-level or the plumb-line), it follows that a degree at the pole, measured by an angular instrument from the earth's centre, would not represent a degree of latitude, because the curvature of the polar regions has its centre much further off

than the earth's centre of gravity, and a degree measured on the surface would therefore be longer. The centre of curvature of the earth's surface rarely coincides with the centre of gravity, and a plumb-line will therefore not always point directly to that centre. It will do so only at the equator and the pole. Everywhere else adjacent plumb-lines will meet at points within or beyond the centre, according as the curvature of the surface is less or greater than the mean curvature of the globe. The flattened polar regions are, for the geometer, portions of a larger sphere; the protuberant equator (as far as latitude is concerned) is part of a smaller one; and degrees of the meridian measured on these parts must be respectively longer and shorter than what would be due to the mean curvature of the globe.

These considerations seem so very obvious, that I am almost afraid I have mistaken Dr. Pratt's meaning. I hope, however, that the explanation here given may be useful to some young astronomers, as I do not recollect seeing it in any popular work.

ALFRED R. WALLACE.

PROCEEDINGS OF FOREIGN ACADEMIES.

PARIS.

THE FRENCH ACADEMY.—May 7.—"Notice on the Phenomena of the Diurnal Rotation of the Winds, and on the General Movements of the Atmosphere," by M. Bourgeois. "Propagation of the Cholera in Marseilles, on the Arrival of the Arabian Pilgrims, in June, 1865." "Memoir on Spontaneous Generation," by M. Arthur.

BRUSSELS.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—April 7.—M. Bernardin and M. Quetelet presented the results of their observations on periodic phenomena, on the 21st of March. M. Bernardin's observations were made at Melle, and those of M. Quetelet in the garden of the Brussels Observatory.

The following memoirs were received:—Gluge—"On Trichiniasis and the Means of Preventing it." E. Quetelet—"On the State of the Atmosphere at Brussels during 1864 and 1865." Spring—"On Trichiniasis, and on a Case of Aphagia." Chapuis—"Monograph of the Platypedes, and on the Carrier Pigeon." Montigny—"On the Chemical and Physical Properties of Matter." Catalan—"On Simultaneous Homogeneous Equations." De la Nux—"On Meteorology and Agriculture." Ladenburg and Fitz—"On some Derivatives of Paraoxybenzoic Acid." Van der Mensbrugghe—"On Curved Surfaces." Dupont—"On the Results of the Scientific Explorations in the Caverns of the Lesse."

The perpetual Secretary announced that an exhibition of the industrial products of Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Finland, would be held at Stockholm, on the 15th of June next, and remain open two or three months. The building is to be erected on the site of the Palace of Charles XIII.

Reports on the following papers were presented:—

Perrey—"On the Earthquakes of the Year 1864; with Supplements for the Years 1843 to 1863." For the last twenty years, M. Perrey has been engaged in collecting particulars relating to earthquakes; but it is now his intention to abandon this useful work, in consequence of the fatigue and labour which it involves. The memoir was ordered to be printed in the *Recueil* of the Academy; a long extract from a work called "*Le Tour du Monde*," cited by the author, being, however, omitted.

Cornet and Briart—"On the Cretaceous Formations of Hainaut." Part 1. Mineralogical and Stratigraphical Description of the Lower Group. Part 2. Botanical Description by M. Coemans. This paper, together with the accompanying plates, was ordered to be printed, as was also a paper by M. Swarts, "On the Brominated Derivatives of Camphor."

M. Ad. Quetelet presented a copy of his recently published work entitled "*Sciences Mathématiques et Physiques chez les Belges au commencement du 19^e Siècle*," which forms a continuation of his former work on the same subject. "It is not my intention," says the author, "to continue the previous work beyond the end of the last century, but I have attempted to prepare some documents which may hereafter be of service. However anxious we may be to be correct, the present is too near for us to judge events with the necessary impartiality." He also read a short note on the

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magnetic perturbations observed at Christiana and Brussels, on the 21st and 23rd of February last, and also upon the meteorological phenomena at Brussels and Louvain during the first three months of the year 1866. The remarkable disturbances of the bifilar magnetometer on the days above mentioned were observed at Christiana by M. Hansteen, and at Brussels by M. E. Quetelet, although not at the same hours. On the 21st of February, the sea was violently agitated at Santorin, and the submarine volcano threw out clouds of thick smoke and a quantity of cinders. Since the commencement of the year, several thunderstorms had been noticed at Brussels and Louvain. At the latter place, lightning was seen on the 8th of January, 5th and 11th of February, and the 17th and 24th of March. There was only a heavy shower at Brussels on the first-mentioned date, but the storms of the 5th and 11th of February were both felt at the capital. On the 24th of March, there was a heavy fall of rain and hail, and on the 27th several loud thunderclaps were heard.

M. Van Beneden gave a short account of a *Balenoptera*, which was found dead in the Texel in March last. It is about fifty feet in length, and probably is one of the species which M. Van Beneden calls *Communis*. The pectoral swimming paws are entirely black, and the direction of the plates of whalebone is of some interest. The skeleton has been purchased by M. Van Beneden, who promises more details on a future occasion.

REPORTS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL.—May 9.—Warrington W. Smyth, F.R.S., President, in the chair.

The Hon. John Abercromby, Lieutenant Rifle Brigade, 21 Chapel Street, Belgrave Square, S.W.; Edward Davis, Esq., Marina Grande, near Lisbon; and Edward St. John Fairman, Esq., 874 Via Santa Maria, Pisa, were elected Fellows.

1. "On a New Species of *Acanthodes* from the Coal-shales of Longton." By Sir Philip de M. Grey Egerton, Bart., M.P., F.R.S. Owing to the kindness of Mr. Ward, of Longton, the author had been enabled to examine a considerable collection of specimens of the *Acanthodean* fishes of the North Staffordshire coal-field. The specimens were all imperfect, the anterior parts of the fish being rarely preserved, and even when present being in a very mutilated condition; but Sir Philip Egerton had determined the distinctness of at least one species, which he described as *Acanthodes Wardi*. This species was far less bulky and more elongated than *A. Bronni* from the Saarbrück coal-field; but not so slender as *A. gracilis* from the Permian beds of Klein Neudorf.

2. "A Sketch of the Gravels and Drift of the Fenland." By Harry Seeley. By the Fenland was understood the flat country west of the chalk hills of Norfolk, from Hunstanton to Cambridge, thence to Bedford, and northwards to Peterborough. Three kinds of drift occur in this region, boulder-clay covering the high land, a coarse gravel which caps the hills, and the fine gravel of the plains. Mr. Seeley described some of their most important exposures, especially the sections at March, Barnwell, and Hunstanton. He gave lists of the marine shells found at March, occurring between boulder-clays, and those found at Hunstanton, of much later date; of the bones and land and freshwater shells found at Barnwell, including one bone described as having been cut by man previous to deposition in the gravel. Comparing the drift of the Fenland with that of the eastern counties, Mr. Seeley inferred that the brown clay of the latter district corresponds with the brown boulder-clay, which is the oldest drift deposit in the former, and that the hill-gravel, the blue boulder-clay, and perhaps the shell-bed of March, correspond to the contorted drift.

3. "Additional Observations on the Geology of the Lake-country." By Prof. R. Harkness, F.R.S., and H. Nicholson, Esq. With a note on the Trilobites; by J. W. Salter, Esq. The authors communicated the following additions to the fauna of the Skiddaw slates, from the lower strata, *Phacops Nicholsoni*, n. sp., *Æglinia binodosa*, and *Lingula brevis*; and from the upper beds *Diplograpsus teretiusculus* and *Agnostis morea*. They stated that fossiliferous rocks had been discovered by them among the "ash-beds" of the Lake-country on the same horizon as those associated with the purely igneous rocks of the eastern parts of Cumberland and Westmoreland, which underlie the Coniston limestone, and are of Caradoc age.

This discovery has thus placed the green rocks of the Lake-country in the same position.

The Caradoc formation of the Lake-country embraces three divisions, namely, the Coniston flags and grits, the Coniston limestone, and the igneous rocks and ash-beds; and the following organic remains obtained from the Coniston flags and grits, the uppermost division of the formation: *Graptolithus Ludensis*, *Diplograpsus pristis*, *Phacops obtusicaudatus*, *Orthos crispa*, *Cardiola interrupta*, *Orthoceras filiosum*, *O. tenuistriatum*, and *O. subannulatum*.

4. "On the Lower Silurian Rocks of the Isle of Man." By Professor R. Harkness, F.R.S., and H. Nicholson, Esq. The older sedimentary deposits, which occupy the greater part of the island, have been regarded by previous observers as Lower Silurian. These slates were described by the authors as forming an anticlinal axis which traverses the island in a north-east and south-west direction, and to be conformably overlain at Douglas Head and Banks How on the south-eastern part of the island by green ash-beds (slates and porphyries). The only fossil of the slates is the *Palæochorda major* of the Skiddaw slates; and from the circumstance that the Lower Silurian rocks of the Isle of Man are in the exact line of strike of the Skiddaw slates of the Lake-country, the authors regarded these beds as corresponding with them; and the "green ash-beds" were considered to be the equivalents of the ash-beds and porphyries which succeed the Skiddaw slates.

The following specimens were exhibited: Silurian fossils from Cumberland and the Isle of Man; exhibited by Professor Harkness and H. Nicholson, Esq. Specimens of *Acanthodes* from the North Staffordshire coal-field; exhibited by J. Ward, Esq. Copper ores from Lake Superior; presented by the Hon. J. D. Caton. Specimen of salt from a remarkable deposit 150 feet above the level of the surrounding swamp, near the shores of the Gulf of Mexico, Louisiana; presented by the Hon. J. D. Caton. Six photographs of ancient sculptures on reindeer-horn; presented by the Marquis de Vibraye.

CHEMICAL.—May 3.—Dr. W. A. Miller, President, in the chair. The proposal of the Council relative to the admission of foreign members resulted in the election of Professor Rammelsberg, Dr. Walcott Gibbs, and Professor Waltzien. Messrs. J. J. Lundy, J. Robinson, and Marshall Hall were elected fellows. Dr. J. H. Gladstone read a paper entitled "Notes on Pyrophosphodiamic Acid," which supplemented an account already presented to the Society by the author conjointly with the late Mr. Holmes. Besides several salts (bibasic), the corresponding ether was described by Dr. Gladstone. Mr. Robert Warrington, jun., then gave an abstract of his "Researches on the Phosphates of Calcium, and upon the Solubility of Tricalcic Phosphate." The solvents employed were water, aqueous solution of carbonic acid, and ammonium salts.

ZOOLOGICAL.—May 8.—Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S., V.P., in the chair.

A communication was read from Mr. F. Pascoe, F.L.S., giving an account of a collection of Longicorn Coleoptera formed by Mr. James Lamb in the island of Penang, and on the adjoining mainland. The total number of species in the collection was stated to be 208, of which no less than 118 were considered to be new to science.

Mr. J. Gould brought before the notice of the Society some interesting additions to the Avifauna of Australia, contained in a collection recently formed at Cape York by Mr. John Jardine. Some of these birds were of species new to science, others had not been previously known as existing in Australia.

Mr. A. G. Butler read a monograph of the Diurnal Lepidoptera of the genus *Euplecta*, containing an account of 95 species of this group of insects, amongst which were many not previously described.

Mr. P. L. Selater pointed out the characters of a new species of *Accipiter* from New Granada, proposed to be called *Accipiter ventralis*.

Mr. P. L. Selater also made some remarks on certain mammals and birds living in the gardens of the Société d'Acclimatation of Paris.

A communication was read from Dr. G. Hartlaub, giving an account of a new form of passerine birds from Madagascar, proposed to be called *Erocassa tenella*.

Dr. J. E. Gray read a notice of a new bat from Angola, proposed to be called *Scotophilus Welwitschi*; also some notes on the skulls of the various forms of *Delphinidae* represented in the collection of the British Museum.

Dr. Gray likewise communicated some notes

on various mammals recently received from Port Albany, North Australia, amongst which were several species new to science.

Mr. Alfred Newton exhibited, from the collection of Mr. W. Borrer, a specimen of *Sylvia aquatica* of Latham, recently killed in England.

GEOGRAPHICAL.—May 14.—Sir R. I. Murchison, Bart., President, in the chair.

The Secretary read an extract from a despatch from the Political Resident at Aden, relative to the supposed existence of survivors of the wreck of the St. Abbs in a state of captivity amongst the Somalis of East Africa, stating that the agent (Colonel Merewether) had commissioned a very intelligent Somali, interpreter of the Police Court at Aden, to send to the country where the Europeans are said to be living, and to bring back certain intelligence of their being there or not.

"On the Geographical Position of Yarkund and other places in Central Asia," by Captain T. G. Montgomerie. The author had been astronomical assistant of the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India, in surveying Kashmir, Little Tibet, and the neighbouring provinces. Finding an instructed Moonshee willing to run the risk of carrying instruments to Yarkund, in Eastern Turkestan, and to fix its position, besides surveying the route thither from the trigonometrical stations in Ladak, he started in the summer of 1863, and after spending the winter in Yarkund, returned over the mountain passes in the following spring. But the Moonshee died when within a short distance of one of the surveying stations, and his papers were all preserved and given up to Captain Montgomerie. The latitude of Yarkund proved to be $38^{\circ} 19' 46''$, and the longitude, as deduced from his route survey, $77^{\circ} 30' E.$; the altitude, 4,000 feet above the sea-level. The march across the mountains, to the watershed dividing India from Turkestan, occupied fifty-one days, for twenty-five days over country never lower than 15,000 feet, and for forty-five days not lower than 9,000. The distance, in a straight line from Jummoor to Yarkund, is 430 miles, so that the mountains are at least 400 miles across at their smallest breadth. The winter at Yarkund was very severe, the thermometer, early in January, falling nearly to zero, and from the 19th to the 26th January snow fell; the sky generally clear. The Moonshee was much struck with the fertility of the surrounding country. The province is ruled by a Chinese official, and the city garrisoned by Chinese troops; the mass of the population is Mahomedan, and ruled in ordinary matters by its own Governor, subordinate to the Chinese. Sir Andrew Waugh, late Surveyor-General of India, described the difficulties, both political and physical, which the Trigonometrical Survey had to surmount in these Himalayan districts, part of which are governed by independent princes, whose permission had to be obtained. Sir Henry Rawlinson spoke of the importance of the reconnaissance made by the Moonshee over a region intermediate between the advancing frontiers of the Russian and Indian empires. Two other papers were also read—one on a visit to Daba, in Tibet, by Captain A. Bennet; and another on a Journey to the Western Shore of Volcano Bay, in Yesso, by Commander Forbes. The latter gave an account of the volcanic phenomena of the northernmost island of Japan, and described the Ainos, or race of hairy men, the aborigines of Yesso, who have been dominated by the encroaching Japanese from the south. Professor Huxley addressed the meeting on the subject of the ethnological relations of the Ainos and Japanese, founding his remarks on the examination of skulls of both races. He found them both to belong to the elongated type of skull, which is distinctive of the Esquimaux, and quite different from that of the races of eastern continental Asia. The Japanese, he believed, had commingled with the Ainos during many centuries, and had probably derived from this circumstance their present conformation of skull.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL.—15th May.

New members: Mr. John Fraser, Liverpool; Dr. Frederick Skues, Staff Assistant-Surgeon, Upper Holloway; Thomas Laurie, Esq., Greenwich; John O'Connell Byrne, Esq., Mark Lane; Edwin Lander, Esq., Consul, Birmingham; Charles Hamond Alpe, Esq., Peckham; Charles O'Callaghan, Esq., M.D., Killarney.

Frederick Edward Pearce, L.R.C.P. Ed., High Cross, Sampford Peverell, near Tiverton, was elected a Local Secretary for Tiverton.

The following papers were read:—

"On the Analogous Forms of Implements

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among Early and Primitive Races," by Hodder M. Westropp, Esq., F.A.S.L. The author commented on the great identity which prevailed in the instruments of warfare and tools used in countries most widely apart. Man in all ages and all stages of his development was a tool-making animal, and his instincts and necessities lead him to fashion instruments and tools suited to his requirements. The same universal processes of mind and instinct will lead the Australian, the New Zealander, the Peruvian, and the Scandinavian, to shape and fashion a stone weapon. The author described in some detail the characteristic forms of the gravel drift, flint implements of Ireland, and polished stone implements. The following terms were proposed by the author to distinguish them—Palæolithic, Mesolithic, Kainolithic. He briefly discussed the chief antiquities of the bronze age, and remarked that the same alloy (10 or 12 per cent. of tin) existed in the bronze weapons of Europe, Egypt, Peru, and Mexico.

"On a Deposit containing Shells and Animal Remains, at Newhaven, in Sussex," by Col. Beauchamp Walker, and Lieut. Ardagh [communicated by Professor Owen]; with notes on the Animal Remains, by C. Carter Blake, and on the Condition of Deposit, by W. Topley, Esq., F.G.S. Colonel Walker and Lieut. Ardagh pointed out that in the face of the cliff at Newhaven, close to the site of the Fort now under construction, a *kjokkenmødding* exists, composed of a band of mixed shells, bones, and pottery, of decreasing thickness from centre to ends. The greater part of this mound has been washed away, and the cliff is now not far from, and parallel to, the land front. A section was given, showing that the length of the part of the cliff furnishing the specimens was about 100 yards, and that the deposit was overlaid by a bed of shells lying inferior to the vegetable mould of ordinary character. The pottery found was Samian, with the exception of some specimens which were of a coarser description. Two pieces of decomposed copper were found, as well as a piece of lead in the form of a hook. Some flints were found, of which it was very doubtful whether they presented evidence of human handiwork. The animal remains all consisted of the existing domestic animals—hog, ox, goat, sheep, dog, and a small bird. Mr. Topley described some analogous specimens which were discovered at Newhaven in 1852, and considered that in Roman times Newhaven levels were covered by the sea.

"On a *Kjokkenmødding* at Santos, Brazil," by Capt. R. F. Burton, V.-P.—Captain Burton described the discovery of some stone implements found by himself and others in various parts of Santos, Brazil. The coast in this neighbourhood was inhabited by the Goaywna Indians, who in 1532 were a domesticated tribe, which only enslaved, instead of killing and eating, their prisoners, and were very kind to the whites. They never made war upon their neighbours; had no plantations nor villages, like the Tamago; their dwelling-places were caves, or holes in the ground, where they kept fires burning night and day, and their beds were the skins of wild beasts killed for food. It was their custom to accompany the wild beasts in their annual migrations from the highlands of the interior during the so-called winter, May to September, and *vice versa*. On the seaboard they lived chiefly on oysters and other shell-fish. They heaped up the empty shells in large mounds, and in them buried their dead. These large shell mounds have supplied the country with lime for the last three centuries, and will yet last for a long time.

"On the Opening of a Tumulus at Esse-quiho," by the Rev. W. H. Brett. The author described the opening of a large mound more than twenty feet high at present, situated not far from the bank of the Moruca. The base is probably 100 feet in diameter. The reef on which it stands is like many others found a few miles inland, composed of white sand, but is destitute of organic remains. The whole reef, as well as the tumulus, were covered with forest trees, until the establishment of the mission in 1846. The whole mass of the mound consists of periwinkles, mussels, clams, whelks, crabs; the periwinkles far exceeding the other mollusca in quantity; mingled with them are the remains of vertebrate fishes and land animals; the whole being the refuse of meals of some race now extinct. The human remains were met with about four or five feet from the surface. These were found confusedly huddled together, mixed with the bones of large fish and lumps of hardened "red paint," stone hatchets, and other worked stones. No ornaments or

metal relics were discovered. The author speculated on the probable mode of interment, and expressed his belief that other remains will be found some distance inland, where the alluvial deposits, the present swamps, join the rising lands, the original shores of the Atlantic.

ENGINEERS.—May 15.—Mr. John Fowler, President, in the chair.

His Royal Highness Prince Alfred, K.G., was elected, by acclamation, an Honorary Member.

Seven Members and six Associates were elected.

Members: Mr. James Melville Balfour, chief of the Marine Engineering Department, Otago, N.Z.; Mr. William Clarke, chief assistant engineer on the London and North Western Railway; Mr. James Collet, first-class district engineer, East Indian Railway; Mr. Henry Wheeler Davis, acting engineer to the Great Eastern Railway; Mr. Jonathan Dickson Ikin, Westminster; Mr. Alfred Moore, resident engineer of the Belfast Waterworks; and Mr. William Smith, chief engineer of the Calcutta Waterworks. Associates: Mr. James Henry Cotterill, Sloane Street; Mr. Charles Foote Gower, Westminster; Mr. James Sidney Hargrove, Westminster; Mr. John Gillett Livesay, surveyor to the Local Board of Health, Ventnor, I.W.; Mr. John Gordon M'Kenzie, Swansea; and Mr. William Barrow Turner, Dalton-in-Furness.

ROYAL ASIATIC.—May 7.—The Right Hon. Viscount Strangford in the chair. Dadabhai Naorojee, Esq., was elected a resident member. The paper read was by J. Muir, Esq., D.C.L., "On the Interpretation of the Vedas." After citing at length the opinions of the representatives of the different schools of Vedic interpretation on the subject under consideration, Mr. Muir proceeded to show by a selection of instances from the Nirukta and from Sâyana's commentary, the unsatisfactory character of the assistance which those works afford for explaining many of the most difficult passages of the hymns, and the consequent necessity which exists, that all the other available resources of philology should be called into requisition to supply their deficiencies. This object more particularly was to point out either (1) that Yaska and Sâyana are at variance with one another in regard to the sense of particular terms, or (2) that they have each given one or more alternative explanations of many words, and cannot therefore be supposed to have had in such cases any positive knowledge of the real signification, or (3) as regards Sâyana, that he expounds numerous words differently in different places, and must therefore, in some of those instances at least, be held to have interpreted them wrongly. Though fully admitting that the native commentators have been of the utmost service in facilitating the comprehension of the Veda, the author stated it as the conclusion at which he had arrived that there is no unusual or difficult word in the hymns in regard to which their authority should be received as final, unless it be supported by probability, by the context or by parallel passages.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—May 4.—The Marquis Camden, President, in the chair.

Mr. J. Yates, F.R.S., brought under the notice of the meeting the contemplated dissolution, by the Italian Parliament, of the famous Benedictine Monastery of Monte Cassino, and read letters he had received from Florence giving a detailed account of the prospects the bill had of passing. He thought it a subject worthy of the Archaeological Institute, and hoped the meeting would be able to suggest some means whereby a House to which this country owed so much may be spared from the destruction contemplated. Canon Rock, who gave some interesting particulars respecting the former connexion of this country and Monte Cassino, the Rev. W. C. Bingham, the Rev. J. Horner, and Mr. O. Morgan, M.P., thought, now that Italy has a Parliament, that great caution should be exercised if it should be decided to make any representation to the Italian Government. On Mr. Morgan's suggestion, the subject was transferred to the Central Committee, who, he considered, would be the appropriate organ of any expression of feeling it might be desirable to make on behalf of the Institute.

The Rev. J. L. Petit read a paper "On the Mediæval Architecture of the East." The buildings to which reference was made were all of the date A.D. 608-1310, and were represented on the walls with marvellous accuracy and beauty in numerous water-colour drawings made on the spot by Mr. Petit. Mr. O. Morgan, M.P., and the Hon. W. Egerton, M.P., were both acquainted with most of the buildings to which allusion

had been made, and, in thanking Mr. Petit for his valuable paper, spoke in high terms of the accuracy of the numerous drawings that had been submitted to the inspection of the meeting. The paper will be printed *in extenso*.

Mr. R. H. Soden Smith read a paper "On the Jewellery and Decorations of the Portraits now being exhibited at South Kensington Museum," and illustrated his remarks by the exhibition of several specimens of finger-rings similar to those represented on the portraits. Mr. O. Morgan, M.P., gave many interesting particulars on the subject, and Mr. George Scharf, Keeper of the National Portrait Gallery, in the course of some valuable observations on Mr. Smith's paper, remarked that the black jewels frequently observed in portraits were designed by the artists to represent diamonds. Unable to give that exceeding brilliance which is one characteristic of the diamond, they contented themselves with representing that precious stone by black spots.

Brigadier-General Lefroy exhibited a helmet lately acquired for the Museum of Artillery, Woolwich, and which he attributed to the early part of the fourteenth century. He called attention to several peculiarities. He also exhibited a basinet or skull-cap, and a shield presented to the Museum of Artillery by Mr. J. Drummond Hay, who rescued them from the store of armour that existed not more than thirty years ago at Tangiers, but has since been made away with by the Moorish officials. From the circumstance that the basinet is marked by right bands intersecting at the crown, like the crosses of a Union-jack, the General inferred it might be Christian rather than Saracenic. The shield is composed of two plates of iron rivetted together in the middle, the junction being covered with a narrow plate resembling an heraldic pale, and two narrow side-plates are disposed as a chevron. He thought this also was Christian.—Canon Rock, who had seen the store at Tangiers, thought the shield and basinet Moorish. He mentioned that on a well-known early mural painting in the Cathedral of Granada, a combat is represented wherein all the Moslem knights bore shields exactly resembling the one before the meeting.—Mr. Hewitt remarked that the knightly helm, exhibited by General Lefroy, appeared to be of the latter part of the fourteenth century, and differed from the thirteenth century helm, in having the cleft for sight at the base of the crown defence, instead of forming part of the moveable door or face-defence. The button at the apex he considered to be for the purpose of affixing the kerchief of pleasance, as seen in the seals of the period.

Mr. E. Greaves exhibited three admirable specimens of Limoges enamel: a circular plaque, evidently a portrait of some well-known man of the period, inscribed, *Plus ny accorde*; a Limoges dish, by Suzanne Courtois; and a fine oblong plaque, representing the Entombment.

Mr. Bernhard Smith exhibited a small collection of gun-locks, a pair of pryke spurs, one iron, the other copper-gilt, and a snaphaunce, early seventeenth century, with a flint lock of remarkable construction.

A collection of miscellaneous rings was contributed by Mr. O. Morgan, M.P.; a silver seal, dated 1517, and bearing the arms of Hoare, was exhibited by Captain E. Hoare; and a bronze object representing a ram's head, which probably formed part of a steelyard, was exhibited by Mr. P. G. Masey.

LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL.—MANCHESTER.—Annual Meeting, April 17.—R. Angus Smith, F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The report of the Council was read.

A paper was read "On the Casting, Grinding, and Polishing of Specula for Reflecting Telescopes, Part 1," by James Nasmyth. The author described in considerable detail the methods and processes by which he produces speculum metal of the best quality, and casts, anneals, and rough-grinds a speculum of ten inches in diameter, his descriptions being illustrated by drawings of the apparatus he employs. In the second part of the paper he will describe the processes of fine-grinding, polishing, and figuring; and will give directions for the general management and use of reflecting telescopes. His instructions are based upon the results of thirty years' experience in the art of working specula, and will, he believes, enable any zealous amateur to make for himself, at a moderate cost, a really good and useful reflector.

Photographical Section.—April 12.—Dr. J. P. Joule, F.R.S., in the chair.

"Note on the First Use of Hyposulphite of Soda in Photography," by A. Brothers.

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MEETINGS FOR NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY.

MATHEMATICAL, 7.30.—“On the Formula for the Multiplication of Four Theta Functions,” Professor H. J. S. Smith; “On the Properties of a Certain Reciprocal Function,” Dr. C. M. Ingleby.
BRITISH ARCHITECTS, 8.

TUESDAY.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, 3.—“On the Application of Physical Geography and Geology to the Fine Arts,” Professor Ansted.
ETHNOLOGICAL, 4.—Anniversary.
MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL, 8.30.
ZOOLOGICAL, 8.30.—“On a New Species of Berycoid Fishes from Madeira,” Mr. J. Y. Johnson; with other papers.

WEDNESDAY.

SOCIETY OF ARTS, 8.—“On Granite Working,” Mr. G. W. Muir.
GEOLOGICAL, 8.—“Notes on the Geology of Sinai,” Rev. F. W. Holland, communicated by Sir R. I. Murchison; “On a New Phyllopodous Crustacean from the Moffat Shales, Dumfriesshire,” Mr. H. Woodward; “On a New Brachyurous Crustacean from the Forest Marble, Wiltshire,” Mr. H. Woodward; “On the Genus *Eryon* of the Lias and Oolites,” Mr. H. Woodward; “On Primordial Fossils in the Lingula-flags of Tyddingwladis,” Mr. J. Plant.
ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, 8.30.

THURSDAY.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, 3.—“On Ethnology,” Professor Huxley.
LINNEAN, 3.—Anniversary.

FRIDAY.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, 8.—“On the Shooting Stars of the Years 1865-6,” Mr. Alexander Herschel.
QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL, 8.

SATURDAY.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, 3.—“On Ethnology,” Professor Huxley.
ROYAL BOTANIC, 3.45.

ART.

ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.

[SECOND NOTICE.]

THE high key up to which every artist who would attract attention on the walls of the Academy is obliged to paint, and the circumstance that his works are separated and influenced by neighbours different in subject, treatment, and spirit, necessarily bias the critic in his judgment, and lead him frequently to the entertaining of opinions which an alteration of the conditions under which they were formed would compel him to abandon. In other words, he must take up the key of the gallery, and hence the great risk of neglecting what is modest and meritorious for what is loud and self-asserting. That such differences in tone exist will readily be felt by anyone who, after devoting an hour or two to the Trafalgar Square Exhibition, will take the trouble to walk across to the French Gallery. Here he will find everything subdued; the pitch low and harmonious, the pictures themselves admirably matched, and, for the most part, perfectly within command of the eye. The reader, then, will be pleased to keep this clearly in view, while accompanying us over the rooms in which are exhibited the masterpieces of contemporaneous British art.

On ascending the staircase and entering the South room, which, not many years ago, was almost entirely devoted to the beautiful art of “portraiture in little,” created in the reign of Elizabeth by Nicholas Hilliard, and which reached at once its climax and its close in the works of Mr. Thorburn and Sir William Ross, we are arrested in passing by a very large crayon-drawing of Sir Edwin Landseer’s, called “The Chase” (694), in which we see a rough black Scottish deerhound rapidly gaining on the flanks of a noble stag. The texture, of course, is managed wonderfully, and the subject is worthy of the pencil of the artist. The pace of the stag is becoming momentarily less elastic, and the backward straining of the eyes upon his terrible pursuer, who gathers force and directness at every stride, tells how horribly conscious the poor brute is that the next bound or two will bring his mortal enemy unerringly to his throat. This is all told with a power peculiarly Landseer’s, and, in spite of the roughness of the handling, there are few visitors who can pass the picture without pausing to admire. We would doubt, however, much as Sir Edwin has studied the habits of the deerhound, whether he is right, with the animal at such a killing pace, to place his hind feet firmly on the heather. Has ever any animal, horse, dog, or deer, when in full racing action, the two hind feet on the ground and the two fore feet off it? Sir Edwin’s was the orthodox mode,

no doubt, in bygone times; but we had thought that a closer study of animal life, and a greater familiarity with anatomy, had taught modern artists better. While on the subject, we may as well descend to the basement, where the busts are kept all of a row on shelves, as closely packed as pots of Scotch marmalade in a housekeeper’s store-room, and look at Sir Edwin’s efforts in the way of modelling. “The Chase” we have just left is life size, but “The Stag at Bay” (942) is little more than statuette size, and is painted, moreover, to imitate life. The deer is on a slight eminence, and the two hounds stand in a marshy pool a little below him. If it is a canon in sculpture that no single figure of a group can be taken away without injuring the whole, Sir Edwin’s “Stag at Bay,” not to mention certain shortcomings in the anatomy of the deer, is scarcely within the pale of criticism. One hound or both might be taken away without much detriment to what remained; and if the whole were taken away, the artist’s skill as a modeller would not suffer. Let us soothe our disappointment by re-ascending the stairs and gazing at some of those works more congenial to the hand of the artist. Passing, for the present, John Faed’s wonderfully complete picture of a Scotch “Wappenschaw” (439), albeit, for pictorial reasons no doubt, he has placed the scene in the highlands instead of in the lowlands; Mr. H. W. B. Davis’s equally noble picture, although noble on other grounds, of “Spring Ploughing in Artois” (415); and the two charming landscapes which flank the entrance to the middle-room, Vicat Cole’s “Evening Rest” (403), and the older Linnell’s “Brow of the Hill” (408); resisting also the subtle lures of Frost, Noel Paton, Leighton, Orchardson, and other like potent wizards, let us hurry through the middle-room and make straight for the welcoming hand of “The Right Hon. Duncan M’Neill, of Colonsay, the Lord Justice General of Scotland;” for beneath that most powerful of portraits hangs Sir Edwin’s picture of “The Mare and Foal,” which we cannot help regarding as his *opus magnum* this year. His surpassing mastery of brush was never seen to better effect than in the various animal figures in this picture. The two monkeys, the two sleeping dogs—which our great daily contemporary informs us are “half-bred Persian hounds,” but which we, in our ignorance, took for a pair of very pure-bred Scotch collies—and the mare herself, with her beautiful foal, are all, to our eye, texturally perfect, and whatever is choice in Sir Edwin’s handling will be found fairly exemplified here. With his “Godiva” we are not so satisfied; her lips are unpronounced, and her form has a redundancy which smacks of Paphos. The dog, the horse, and the old lady herself—who closes her eyes with a determination which suggests a desire on her part to close up another sense too—are all in very sleek condition, and gives one the idea that, however hard Leofric, Earl of Mercia, may have been upon the good folks of Coventry, he kept a wonderfully bountiful board at home, both for man and beast. The sundry anachronisms in the picture trouble us little, any more than the want of true appreciation for the beauties of female flesh surface, and the delicate subtleties of its colour; it is the idea of which we complain; and so far as the artist is concerned—and we say it under a full sense of the value of the many highly thoughtful and poetic works which he has given to the world—the divinely beautiful legend of Lady Godiva riding through Coventry has yet to be painted.

Having thus relieved our minds of what we had to say of the artist who perhaps of all others claimed precedence, we feel ourselves at liberty to follow the ordinary course of the catalogue.

“Sunrise before Rain” (1), by E. Edwards, looks well painted in the foreground and middle distance, and he is perhaps right in giving a cold, chalky tinge to the distant sky. In the management of rocks and rushing water Mr. A. Langdale, in “King Arthur’s Castle” (2), shows aptitude as well as sym-

pathy. Mr. Leighton’s “Painter’s Honeymoon” (4), an artist with one hand locked in his wife’s, while the other plys the pencil on the bristol board, over which their two young heads meet so lovingly, is soft, dreamy, and luscious. The artist’s manner of treating the outlines and the half tints, as well as his peculiarly smooth surface, tends to the effect we have described. The picture is a continuation of that vein he worked so successfully last year. In Mrs. James Guthrie’s beautiful portrait, however, he applies his method more vigorously, and with a broader effect. On the right side of the picture, where the vases of flowers stand, we are doubtful whether Mr. Leighton, considering the background, has been so happy as he might in the opposing and contrasting of his colours. But it is in his “Syracusan Brides leading Wild Beasts in Procession to the Temple of Diana” (292), that we see the artist at his best and boldest. It is little use in saying that the wild beasts are not wild enough, the faces of the women not varied in feature and expression enough, the bright white clouds kept in their places enough, or the interest of the whole central enough; it is sufficient for us to feel that we are in the presence of a new idea, and that too an elevated one, worked out with great artistic power and knowledge, and with a fine tenderness of feeling. Had the beasts been wilder, the picture would have been painful from a sense of apprehension on the part of the spectator, besides the risk of the painter being less true to fact, and the faces, considering the circumstances and the locality, are to our mind sufficiently varied and beautiful. Let anyone visit a strange country for the first time, and he will take most of the people he meets for brothers and sisters. Had Mr. Leighton subdued his bright clouds and sky, he would have failed to produce that Veronese-like luminosity which gives such a freshness to his work; and had he attempted to focus the interest of his picture, his work would have lost its character, and the whole would have required recasting. The Romans in the corner might have been a size bigger; and there are no doubt some shortcomings in the work which have struck the artist himself by this time; but as a whole we are proud of the picture, and thank Mr. Leighton cordially for carrying out so vigorously the idea which he himself, with his “Cimabue,” inaugurated some half-score years ago. He brought new subjects and a new method to the country, and demonstrated successfully to English artists that there were themes within their grasp other than those of the everlasting *genre*.

MISCELLANEA.

“LEIPZIG! Waterloo! St. Helena!” is a German book which opportunely appears at the same time with the second volume of the “Vie de César.” The second title of the work is somewhat ominous: “The World’s Judgment, Fifty Years Ago!” It is what its author, Wilhelm Weinzerl, and its illustrator, Ludwig Burger, intended it to be, a “Volksbuch” for the German people, upholding a United Germany, even at the moment when the storm of civil strife is lowering and the fastening of the bundle of sticks is becoming looser and looser every day. Last Sunday week the *Moniteur* records that the Emperor of the French told the Mayor and the good folks of Auxerre that he breathed more freely among the working population of France than in any other class, because he knew that they, like himself, detested the treaties of 1815, on which it was now proposed “to base all our foreign policy,” and because in them, in short, he recognized “the true genius of France.” No wonder if such a declaration from such a quarter, at such a moment, caused a panic on the French bourse. That panic preceded ours by several days. The second volume of the “Vie de César” was to have made its appearance on Tuesday, the 8th, but it was kept back till Saturday last. The *Constitutionnel* of yesterday week, the day before the book appeared, selected several extracts *à propos* to the present state of Europe, heading them respectively, “César harangue les troupes;” “César est forcé à la Guerre Civile;” “César passe la Rubicon.” It is well known how great pains

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have been taken to define the ancient boundaries of Gaul to the east, in the maps to this volume, by which it is clear which is the Rubicon that separates France from Germany in that quarter. The author of "Leipzig! Waterloo! St. Helena!" impressively calls upon Germany to denounce the Metternich treason of old, that "Alsace and Lothringia of God and Right belong to France." The shadows of coming events are visible in both countries. Publications like that of Messrs. Weinzerl and Burger are greedily devoured in Germany; and the people generally, including Prussians, are opposed to the Bismarck policy.

JUDGE THOMAS JONES, a "loyalist" at the date of the War of Independence under General Washington, died at New York some years ago, leaving behind him a MS. in five large volumes containing the history of that revolution, viewed from a "loyal," or English point of view, in which his reflections upon the popular leaders of the defection from the mother country are both bitter and severe. The book has hitherto been kept back, but it is now rumoured that it is about to be committed to the press.

WHEN the Freiherr Adalbert von Barnim, the son of Prince Adelbert of Prussia, undertook a scientific exploring journey into the countries of the Nile in 1860, which resulted in his early death, he was accompanied by Dr. R. Hartmann, as physician to the expedition. Towards the close of last year the doctor published a most interesting volume of upwards of 400 pages, giving an account of his observations, under the title of "Naturgeschichtlich-medizinische Skizze der Nilländer," the first half of which treats of the geography and natural history of those regions, and the second of the various races and inhabitants. To these is added a large dissertation on the medical knowledge of the ancient Egyptians, and the curative treatment of diseases by the modern Egyptians. But under a somewhat repulsive title the book is full of curious information for the general reader, imparted in a most agreeable style. For men of science, anthropologists, zoologists, botanists, geologists, geographers, and the medical profession, the volume is a mine of solid information.

WHEN linen rags were scarce with us, in the first war of the French Revolution, straw and wood were attempted to be introduced as a substitute in the manufacture of paper. M. Koop published, in 1801, an "Historical Account of the Substances which have been used to describe Events and to convey Ideas prior to the Invention of Paper." The book was printed upon paper made solely from straw, and an appendix was added, struck off upon paper made from wood. The internecine war in America seems to have exhausted the old rags, and paper is now chiefly obtained from Europe. The Americans are, however, improving upon M. Koop's invention, and on the Schuylkill at Philadelphia large works have been established, which daily convert twenty tons of wood-pulp into soft white paper. A number of scientific men recently attended at the works, and during their visit a poplar tree was felled and converted into clear fine paper, all within the space of five hours. But perhaps more important is the discovery of a new textile plant in Mexico, having extremely long fibres, similar to hemp, but superior in fineness, and which may be used in the manufacture of textile fabrics the same as flax, the waste, it is said, yielding a substitute for rags in the manufacture of paper.

THE "Ulysses," one of Guonod's most recent works, is to be introduced for the first time in this country at a charity concert to be given at St. James's Hall, on the 8th of next month, in aid of the funds of the Hospital for Consumption.

THE Committee of the Church Institution are about to convene a meeting to consider the most appropriate memorial to be raised to the memory of the late Mr. Henry Hoare, their lamented treasurer.

ACCORDING to the *Archivio Storico Italiano* the first volume of "Dante e il suo Secolo," the work produced in honour of the sixcentenary of Dante's birth, is on the eve of publication by Mariano Cellini, of Florence. The work is edited by Professor Ghivizzani, and by way of illustrations has the portrait of Dante, engraved by Aloisto Juvara, and a photograph of Carl Vogel von Vogelstein's well-known picture. Amongst matters of less importance the contents of the volume consist of a view of Europe in the age of Dante by Cesare Cantù, the historian; Luigi Cibrario adds to this a view of the political administration of the various States of Italy at that date; Luigi Passerini, an account of

the Dante family; Mauro Riccio, an essay on the religion and piety of Dante; Dante's theology, by P. Paganini; his politics, by Terenzio Mamiani; Beatrice, by Guis. Puccianti; the women of Dante, by Colombini; Dante's philosophy, by Aug. Conti; the Veltro Allegorico, by Nicolo Tommasco; Hell, by F. Guerazzi; the Vita Nuova, by Orlandini; the Convito, by Fornari; the people of Tuscany at the date of Dante, by Gino Capponi; and the family of Dante during the century of the poet, by Enrico Mayer.

A VERY unpretending little volume, but in every way important to the investigator into the origin and history of the races of the human family, is "Die Sagen und Lieder des Tscherkessen Volkes," "Tales and Songs of the Circassians, collected by Kabardiner Schora-Bekmurzin-Nogmew, edited with introduction by M. Adolf Berge, President of the Caucasian Archaeographical Commission." The tales and songs are simply the pegs upon which to hang all kind of interesting information respecting his country and countrymen by the author. The author is a Circassian born, brought up and educated at the cost of the Emperor of Russia, and now in the service of Russia, but with the love of home and country so inherent in the Circassian nature he has given us a volume full of interest and novelty.

OUR contemporary the *Observer* of Sunday last, in noticing the gathering of Bishops at Lambeth Palace on the previous Saturday, speaks of the "late Bishop of Natal." We are not aware that Dr. Colenso has vacated the see, and till he does, it is surely somewhat premature to use the expression we print in italics.

"THE Great Exhibition of Flowering Plants and Fruits" at the Crystal Palace, on Saturday last, notwithstanding the untoward state of the atmosphere and the financial panic in the City, was well attended, about 15,000 persons being present. All being stove and greenhouse plants, none were affected by the recent low state of the atmosphere; and perhaps a more beautiful display of roses than that of Saturday has never been exhibited. Next to the roses in beauty were the pelargoniums, and the azaleas, heaths, and rare exotics, amongst which we noticed the Nitalrochia Tripartita, the female Aucuba, introduced by Mr. Fortune from Japan, with its large red berries, and the Raphanus Caudatus, to which we recently called attention, all exhibited by W. Bull, of Chelsea. Amongst the other chief professional exhibitors were Mr. C. Turner, of Slough; Messrs. J. and C. Lee, of Hammersmith; Mr. O. Rhodes, of Sydenham; and Messrs. H. Lane and Son, of Berkhamstead; all of whom obtained prizes. Other prizes were awarded to Mr. B. Peed, gardener to Mrs. Tredwell, of Norwood; Mr. C. Smith, gardener to Mr. A. Anderson, of Norwood; Mr. C. Penney, gardener to Mr. H. Gibbs, of Regent's Park; Mr. R. Bullen, gardener to Mr. A. Turner, of Leicester; Mr. J. Ward, gardener to Mr. F. G. Wilkins, of Leyton; and Mr. J. Weir, gardener to Mrs. Hodgson, of Hampstead.

THE Rev. W. Gilson Humphrey, the Vicar of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, preached the sermon at the anniversary festival of the Sons of the Clergy at St. Paul's on Tuesday last. The service was held in the large open space under the dome. The Primate, the Bishops of St. David's, Ely, Lichfield, St. Asaph, Ripon, and Llandaff, the Dean and Canons of St. Paul's, and other dignitaries attended. The choir of St. Paul's, assisted by the choirs of Westminster Abbey, of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal, of St. George's, Windsor, and others, numbering in all about 200, conducted by Dr. Elvey, from Windsor, gave the musical portion of the service most impressively. The Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs, and other civic authorities, went in procession to assist at this 212th celebration of the festival, and the dinner, as usual, took place at Merchant Tailors' Hall, the Lord Mayor in the chair. The collection at the doors of the Cathedral produced only 115*l.*, but the dinner subscription amounted to nearly 2,800*l.*

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. Philip Stanhope Worsley, a valued contributor to our pages from the commencement of THE READER, whose poetical effusions have often graced the pages of *Blackwood's Magazine*. His translation of the "Iliad" into blank verse, in the Spenserian stanza, as a companion to his translation of the "Odyssey," has for months past been announced by Messrs. Blackwood and Sons as being in the press. Of the "Iliad," however, we believe only twelve books have been translated. His miscellaneous "Poems and Translations" were published in 1863. Mr. Worsley, who was one of the Fellows of Corpus

Christi College, Oxford, had long been in a failing state of health, and had taken up his permanent abode at Freshwater, in the Isle of Wight, not far from the residence of the Poet Laureate, where he died on the 8th inst.

MRS. KEBLE, who was seriously ill at the time of Mr. Keble's death, has followed him to the grave. She died in the same house at Brookside, Bournemouth, on the 11th inst., in her sixtieth year.

FOLLOWING the example of Mr. Vice-Chancellor Page Wood, Mr. George Waring, of Magdalen Hall, Oxford, a gentleman who took high university honours, to whom the authorship of "Ecce Homo" has been recently imputed, disclaims it, according to the *Oxford Times*, which contradicts the report upon "undoubted authority."

THE Inns of Court Volunteers go to Cambridge on Whit-Monday, to join the University Corps in a field-day.

THE discovery of a stone bearing a Greek inscription with equivalent Egyptian hieroglyphics, by Messrs. Lepsius, Reinisch, Rösler, and Weidenbach, four German explorers, at Sane, the former Tanis, the chief scene of the grand architectural undertakings of Rameses the Second, is an important event for students of Egyptology. The Greek inscription consists of seventy-six lines, in the most perfect preservation, dating from the time of Ptolemy Energetes I. (238 B.C.). The stone is twenty-two centimetres high, and seventy-eight centimetres wide, and is completely covered by the inscriptions. The fortunate finders devoted two whole days, the 22nd and 23rd ult., to copying the inscriptions, taking three photographs of the stone, and securing impressions of the hieroglyphics. Egyptologists are therefore anxiously looking forward to the production of these facsimiles and photographs.

THE second part of the Dictionnaire Historique de la Langue Française comprenant l'Origine, les Formes diverses, les Acceptions successives des Mots, avec un choix d'Exemples tirés des Ecrivains le plus Autorisés, publié par l'Académie Française (Ab.—Act.), a quarto volume of 415 pages, has just appeared.

THE late Dr. Barth's collection of "Vocabularies of Central Africa," has not been interrupted by the lamented death of that well-known African explorer on the 25th of last November. The book is issued with the above English title-page as well as under the original German one, "Sammlung und Bearbeitung Central-Afrikanischer Vocabularien." The third section, a quarto volume of 153 pages, containing the "Nouns Substantive," is just published.

THE Scottish National Museum of Science and Art, the foundation stone of which was laid by his Royal father on the 23rd of October, 1860, will be opened to-day by Prince Alfred.

SOMEWHAT of a novel feature in high class journalism has been introduced into the pages of the *New York Watchman*, in the shape of "Letters from the Editor."

A CURIOUS type-setting match came off at Iowa City last month, Mr. A. J. Kenny, of the *Iowa City Press*, and Mr. O. B. Bell, of the *Council Bluff Nonpareil*, each setting four thousand *ems* solid *bourgeois* in two hours.

THE ladies in nearly every city and town in the South, says the *New York Watchman* of the 28th ult., are moving to celebrate the coming May by substantial testimonials in commemoration of their dead heroes.

THE syndicate appointed to consider the question of the capitation taxes in the University of Cambridge, have recommended that for the future all members of the University should pay an annual sum of 17*s.* each; that of the sum thus produced, 2,500*l.* be contributed to the expenses of the Library, and that its funds be also relieved from the burden of 900*l.* per annum at present paid by it to the new buildings; that 1,000*l.* per annum be devoted to the formation of a general building fund; and 1,500*l.* per annum to a fund for the maintenance of the University Lecture Rooms, and the support and extension of the Museums of Physical, Mechanical, and Natural Sciences.

THE following architects are the competitors for the National Gallery: Messrs. Banks and Barry, E. M. Barry, Broderick, Somers Clark, F. P. Cockerell, Owen Jones, Murray, F. C. Penrose, G. G. Scott, S. Smirk, G. E. Street, and Digby Wyatt.

ON Monday last, the first general meeting was held of the recently-amalgamated Ornithological Society of London, and the Acclimatiza-

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tion Society of Great Britain, as one society, in the Council-room of the Royal Horticultural Society, South Kensington.

MR. J. C. STEVENS announces the late Mr. Gordon Cumming's South African Collection for sale by public auction.

THE topography of Jerusalem has been carefully laid down in a plan given by M. G. Rosen, the Prussian Consul at Jerusalem, in "Das Haram von Jerusalem und Tempelplatz des Moria," an attempt to identify the true site of each.

THE celebrated Cancale oyster-beds have been visited by the oyster-pest, and the once nutritious bivalves are no longer a tempting esculent, but a certain poison. When the celebrated Mdle. Rachel died, her sister abandoned the stage and took to oyster-breeding as a means of subsistence, renting a *parc aux huîtres* in Mount St. Michael's Bay. The oyster-pest from Cancale spread, and her oyster beds have become depopulated. She has, in consequence, obtained from the Prefect of La Manche the concession of a fresh bed, known as *Le Banc des Pendus*, near Regneville. Here she intends laying down the gigantic American horseshoe oyster, a luxury hitherto untried in Europe, admirable for all culinary purposes, but lacking much of the delicacy of our favourite Native.

MESSRS. HURD AND HOUGHTON have in press a small volume of Essays, entitled "Shakespeare's Delineations of Insanity, Imbecility, and Suicide," by Dr. A. O. Kellogg, Assistant Physician at the Lunatic Asylum, Utica, N. Y. Part 1, Insanity: Lear, Hamlet, Ophelia, &c.; Part 2, Imbecility: Bottom, Malvolio, Pistol, Bardolph, Nym, Dogberry, Launce, Caliban, &c.; and Part 3, Suicide: Othello, &c.

It is presumed that the greatest flower-show ever held in the metropolis will be that of the International Horticultural Exhibition, which takes place on Tuesday next at the Royal Horticultural Gardens, South Kensington, and will continue on view during the three following days. The entries, which are very numerous, afford every prospect of an extraordinary display.

MR. BOHN, of York Street, Covent Garden, has just put forth an interesting portion of the catalogue of his retail stock of ancient and modern books. This portion contains "Greek and Latin Miscellanies, including Theology, Philology, Modern Latin Poetry, Manuscripts in all languages, Chinese Drawings and books, and other drawings." Amongst the MSS. is a collection of seventy-four autograph unpublished letters of Anna Maria Schurmann (1632-1650), a sort of Admirable Crichton in petticoats, whose calligraphy is as clear and beautiful as that of the engraved lines of Messrs. Stevens and Holes's copybooks, and no wonder, as engraving was one of the lady's great accomplishments. There is also, a book much more to be coveted, a volume of Juvenile Poems of James Thomson, author of "The Seasons." There are two Egyptian papyri; a stone tablet with a Greek inscription before the Christian era; some curious Chinese charts and maps; and many other articles of similar interest and rarity.

In reference to the announcement as copied from an American paper a fortnight ago of the intention of Mr. L. Baker, of the Public Library, Worcester, Massachusetts, to edit "The Chinese Classics," taking for his basis the text of Dr. Legge, Mr. Trübner gives the following caution in his current number of the *American and Oriental Literary Record*: "We are aware that America has contributed her quota of distinguished Chinese scholars, but look in vain among their number for the name of Mr. L. Baker, of the Public Library, Worcester, Mass. We think we are therefore justified in assuming that Mr. L. Baker, of the Public Library, Worcester, Mass., is quite innocent of Chinese scholarship, and we must look elsewhere for his motives in 'engaging' upon 'The Chinese Classics.' Mr. Z., not L. Baker, before he became a librarian, and ambitious to come before the world as a Chinese scholar, was a humble bookseller at Worcester. True to the instincts of the fraternity, he cannot withstand the temptation to turn a penny by reprinting Dr. Legge's English Translation of 'The Chinese Classics.' Had Mr. Baker kept within the province of piratical reproduction, we should not have troubled to say so much about him and his proceedings; but since he thinks fit to add to his action the assumption of a scholarship he does not possess, we must hold him up to public opprobrium. We caution our readers against Mr. Baker's attempt to foist upon them Dr. Legge's book in a garbled state, all the more so since we have reason to believe that Dr. Legge himself is engaged upon an edition of his work intended for the missionary and general reader. There lived

at Lübeck, in the sixteenth century, a master printer, Johannes Ballhorn. He is said, among other things, to have published a new edition of a well-known spelling-book, on the title-page of which he called it, "a new edition, improved by Johannes Ballhorn." On examination it was found that the improvement consisted in a basket of eggs added by Ballhorn to the picture of the original cock, which had always adorned the title-pages of former editions. Hence the verb, "to Ballhornize," was introduced into the German vocabulary. Should Mr. Baker carry out his intention we propose the introduction into the Anglo-American vocabulary of the verb, "to Bakerize."

MESSRS. BELL & DALDY announce, in imperial 4to, a work on the Art of Illumination, by Henry Shaw. It will contain many of the choicest examples of English, Flemish, French, German, and Italian Art, from the 9th to the 16th century.

MADAME VILDA, the new singer at the Royal Italian Opera, has been engaged to sing at Exeter Hall on Wednesday next, on which occasion a performance of Mr. G. W. Martin's Prize Glees and National Part Songs will be given by the 600 choristers of the National Choral Society, assisted by the Orpheus Glee Union, Miss Lucy Franklin, Mr. Leigh Wilson, &c.

MESSRS. TRÜBNER announce for publication by subscription, "The Birds of South Africa, a Descriptive Catalogue of all the known species occurring south of the Twenty-eighth parallel of Latitude," by Mr. Edgar Leopold Layard, Curator of the South African Museum, &c.

MR. ALFRED W. BENNETT will shortly publish "The Oberland and its Glaciers, explored and illustrated with ice-axe and camera. By H. B. George, M.A., Editor of the *Alpine Journal*; with twenty-eight photographs and a map."

"FELIX HOLT, the Radical," the new tale by "George Eliot," will be published in June.

THE Rev. J. Llewelyn Davies has for some time past been occupied in editing "St. Paul's Epistles to the Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon, with Introduction and Notes." Mr. Davies will add an essay on the traces of foreign elements in the theology of these epistles. The work will be published by Messrs. Macmillan and Co.

MESSRS. ROUTLEDGE AND SONS have just issued the first part of a new edition of Disraeli's "Curiosities of Literature," to be completed in six monthly parts, at sixpence each.

THE whole number of students matriculated at Cambridge during the Academical year 1865-6 is 540.

TRÜBNER'S *Literary Record* furnishes a very curious and interesting list, headed "Literature of the Argentine Republic." It consists of some one hundred and fifty publications, chiefly from the presses of Monte Video and Buenos Ayres.

MR. EDWIN NORRIS, the honorary secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society, sends us a specimen of an Assyrian Dictionary, by means of which the difficulty of deciphering the arrow-headed inscriptions may be greatly facilitated. The author has been assisted in his laborious undertaking by Sir Henry Rawlinson and Dr. Hincks. The entire dictionary is ready for press. Such a work deserves every encouragement, even to a Government grant for the printing of the book, as one not likely to repay the outlay, yet singularly called for by the recent discoveries of the remains of Nineveh, and its long buried records of the past.

THE Archbishop of York presided, on Tuesday last, at the meeting of the Association for Promoting the Welfare of the Blind at St. James's Hall. Amongst others present were the Bishop of Oxford, Lord Carnarvon, Lord Houghton, the Bishop of St. David's, the Bishop of Peterborough, and Professor Fawcett, M.P. The latter said, one of the severest struggles he had ever had with himself was to speak on that occasion; but he was told that he might do some slight good to those who were blind by taking part in the proceedings of the meeting. He did not entirely believe in the isolation which was attributed to blind persons. After he was afflicted with blindness eight years ago he found that there was a wonderful compensatory power in nature, and he thought that power would enable him to cling to the same habits, to cherish the same ambition, to indulge the same tastes, and to enjoy the same pleasure as if this affliction had not happened to him. His experience led him to the belief that where a person was afflicted with blindness, the mind became more concentrated, the hearing more acute, the touch more delicate, and, in fact, every other power seemed to acquire new activity. He had never

altered his course of reading after his misfortune. He continued from the page of the book at which he left off previous to his getting blind, and enjoyed his old sport of angling as formerly. He enjoyed the grandeur and beauties of nature as much as ever; and often when in society, when describing some beautiful river, he stopped to think whether he had really seen it, or if it had been described to him. He thought he enjoyed as much happiness as most people, and he believed every blind person would derive equal enjoyment if brought under the same inspiring influences, the same associations, and made to participate as far as possible in the same pleasures which other people enjoyed.

MR. DAVID G. FRANCIS, of New York, has reprinted Mr. J. P. Collier's "Bibliographical Account of the Rarest Books in the English Language," recently published by Mr. Joseph Lilly. The reprint is in four volumes, crown octavo, and got up with all the luxury of the Riverside press.

MESSRS. TICKNOR & FIELDS, of Boston, have in the press "A History of the Anti-Slavery Struggle in the United States," by William Lloyd Garrison.

WASHINGTON IRVING is as popular in America as ever. Of the Riverside editions of his works, according to the *Round Table*, upwards of forty thousand are sold every year. Of J. Fenimore Cooper's works, including the illustrated, people's, and paper editions, forty-five thousand copies have been sold.

A CURIOUS biographical and historical monograph has just appeared at Albany. It is the address delivered by Mr. John Meredith Read, jun., son of Judge Read, of Philadelphia, to the Historical Society of Delaware, in October, 1864, and now published under the title of "A Historical Inquiry concerning Henry Hudson, his Friends, Relatives, and Early Life; his Connexion with the Muscovy Company, and Discovery of Delaware Bay." The early history of Hudson is very obscure, but Mr. Read's diligence furnishes many particulars hitherto unknown.

THE Rev. J. C. Ryle, the well-known Low Church tract-writer, did battle for his party at a meeting, in Ipswich, in favour of the Church Pastoral Aid Society, which he claimed as belonging to the Evangelical party of the Church of England. Such exhibitions are always to be regretted, and Mr. Ryle would have done wisely had he followed the example recently set him by the new Vicar of Greenwich, in taking leave of his former flock at Birmingham. Dr. Miller, himself a leader of the same section of the Church as Mr. Ryle, very properly, in these days of progress and inquiry, discourages mere polemical controversy, for which Mr. Ryle, it would seem, has a great partiality. It is rumoured that Mr. Ryle is about to obtain preferment in one of the most populous of the suburban parishes of the metropolis, where opinions are not only much divided, but, on the whole, tolerably well balanced.

THE Registrarship of the Royal College of Arms has become vacant by the death of Mr. William Courthorpe, of the Middle Temple. The post of Somerset Herald goes with the Registrarship.

THE Gaisford Prizes have been thus awarded: Greek verse, George Nutt, scholar of New College; proxime accessit, Francis de Paravicini, scholar of Balliol College, and Joseph Holme Gardiner, scholar of Brasenose College. Greek prose, Francis de Paravicini; proxime accessit, Walter G. H. Phillimore, Student of Christ Church. The Ellerton Theological Prize (subject: "The duty of the Church in respect of Christian Missions") has been awarded to Oswald Joseph Reichel, M.A., of Queen's College.

THE Members' Prizes at Cambridge, given to those Bachelors of Arts and Undergraduates who compose the best dissertations in Latin prose, have been awarded to—Bachelor: H. E. Fanshawe, B.A., Corpus College; and Undergraduate: J. E. Sandys, St. John's College.

At the late meeting at Lambeth Palace, it was determined that the Keble Memorial should be a college, or a similar institution, to bear his name, in which young men now debarred from University education may be trained in simple and religious habits, and in strict fidelity to the Church of England. The Archbishop of Canterbury for the time being is to be the visitor. It is proposed to raise a sum of 50,000*l.*, by subscription, for the purpose.

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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

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THE LADY'S MILE :—

Miss Braddon's novel is full of healthy, honest sentiments; and teaches, among other good things, the value of perseverance and the iniquity of marriages without love.—*The Era*.

THE LADY'S MILE :—

The story is related with all Miss Braddon's peculiar powers of fixing attention and sustaining interest; the persons introduced seem to be faithfully drawn from real life; the incidents are skillfully linked together, and the descriptions with which the novel abounds are most striking and graphic.—*Irish Times*.

THE LADY'S MILE :—

The last production from the pen of the author of "Lady Audley's Secret," is fully equal to the reputation her writings have acquired; and will, we are sure, be eagerly read by all who delight in a well-constructed story, full of interest and admirable delineation of character.—*Cork Southern Reporter*.

THE LADY'S MILE :—

Is as far beyond "Lady Audley's Secret" as the work of a matured artist is beyond a raw amateur's daub. Miss Braddon conquered the public at her first appearance; she is able to conquer the critics now.—*Morning Star*, May 14.

THE LADY'S MILE :—

As a whole, the story is far above anything that Miss Braddon has yet written.—*Eastern Morning News*, May 9.

THE LADY'S MILE :—

We can recommend "The Lady's Mile" as decidedly amusing.—*The Queen*, May 12.

THE LADY'S MILE :—

This is, in our opinion, the best of Miss Braddon's novels. We can cordially recommend the book.—*John Bull*, May 12.

THE LADY'S MILE :—

We consider this work decidedly superior to some of the author's former productions, whilst the charm of her style exerts its old influence; and, with the novel-reading public, the tale will at once be popular.—*Weekly Dispatch*, May 6.

THE LADY'S MILE :—

An interesting story, replete with all the qualities that most people like in a novel. "The Lady's Mile" will add to Miss Braddon's reputation, and that in the best sense of the phrase.—*Illustrated S. News*, May 5.

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Displays all the peculiar attractions which first obtained for its authoress the widespread favour she has secured from the novel-reading public. . . In brief, "The Lady's Mile" adds one more to the successes inaugurated by "Lady Audley's Secret."—*Morning Advertiser*.

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Is sufficient to establish a lasting reputation, even if "Lady Audley's Secret" and "Aurora Floyd" become forgotten, or had never been written.—*Sporting Gazette*, May 6.

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Told in Miss Braddon's easiest and most agreeable manner. To her admirers, it may not bring the old glamour of sensation, but it will yield healthier excitement and purer interest than her earlier and more characteristic works.—*Manchester Guardian*, May 1.

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The book is a lady's book; nearly all the characters are in love—a love, too, that is eminently unsmooth; and what it does not refer to the gentle passion appertains to high life and mercenary marriages. . . The work, while being the most unexceptionable in point of morals of all Miss Braddon's fictions, is also one of the most entertaining.—*Western Daily Mercury*, May 7.

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Opinion of "THE TIMES" on "JOHN MARCHMONT'S LEGACY."

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London: WARD, LOCK, & TYLER, Publishers, Warwick House, Paternoster Row.

8 NEW BURLINGTON STREET, May, 1866.

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It contains upwards of 600 ILLUSTRATIONS of his Unrivalled STOCK of STERLING SILVER and ELECTRO-PLATE, NICKEL SILVER and BRITANNIA METAL GOODS, DISH COVERS, HOT-WATER DISHES, STOVES, FENDERS, MARBLE CHIMNEY-PIECES, KITCHEN RANGES, LAMPS, GASELIERS, TEA TRAYS, URNS and KETTLES, CLOCKS, TABLE CUTLERY, BATHS, TOILETWARE, TURNERY, IRON and BRASS BEDSTEADS, BEDDING, BEDROOM CABINET FURNITURE, &c., with LISTS of PRICES, and PLANS of the

TWENTY LARGE SHOW-ROOMS,

At 39 OXFORD STREET: 1 la 2 3 & 4 NEWMAN STREET; 4 5 & 6 PERRY'S PLACE,
and 1 NEWMAN YARD, LONDON, W.

THE PERFECT SUBSTITUTE for SILVER. The real NICKEL SILVER, introduced more than 25 years ago by WILLIAM S. BURTON, when plated by the patent process of Messrs. Elkington and Co., is beyond all comparison the very best article next to sterling silver that can be employed as such, either usefully or ornamentally, as by no possible test can it be distinguished from real silver.

A small, useful Set, guaranteed of first quality for finish and durability, as follows:—

	Fiddle, or Old Silver Pattern.	Bead Pattern.	Thread Pattern.	King's, or Shell and Thread.
12 Table Forks	£ s. d. £ s. d. £ s. d. £ s. d.			
12 Table Spoons	1 13 0 2 0 0 2 4 0 2 10 0			
12 Dessert Forks	1 4 0 1 10 0 1 12 0 1 15 0			
12 Dessert Spoons	1 4 0 1 10 0 1 12 0 1 15 0			
12 Tea Spoons	0 16 0 1 0 0 1 2 0 1 5 0			
6 Egg Spoons, gilt bowls	0 10 0 0 12 0 0 12 0 0 13 6			
2 Sauce Ladles	0 6 0 0 8 0 0 8 0 0 9 0			
1 Gravy Spoon	0 6 0 0 9 0 0 10 0 0 11 0			
2 Salt Spoons, gilt bowls	0 3 4 0 4 0 0 4 0 0 4 6			
1 Mustard Spoon, gilt bowl	0 1 8 0 2 0 0 2 0 0 2 3			
1 Pair of Sugar Tongs	0 2 6 0 3 6 0 3 6 0 4 0			
1 Pair of Fish Carvers	1 4 0 1 10 0 1 10 0 1 10 0			
1 Butter Knife	0 2 6 0 4 0 0 5 6 0 6 0			
1 Soup Ladle	0 10 0 0 12 0 0 16 0 0 17 0			
1 Sugar Sifter	0 3 3 0 4 6 0 4 6 0 5 0			
Total	9 19 9 12 9 0 13 9 6 14 17 3			

Any article to be had singly at the same prices. An Oak Chest, to contain the above, and a relative number of Knives, &c., £2 15s. Tea and Coffee Sets, Dish Covers and Corner Dishes, Cruet and Liqueur frames, &c., at proportionate prices. All kinds of Re-plating done by the Patent Process.

FENDERS, STOVES, FIRE-IRONS, and CHIMNEY-PIECES.—Buyers of the above are requested, before finally deciding, to visit WILLIAM S. BURTON'S SHOW-ROOMS. They contain such an assortment of Fenders, Stoves, Ranges, Chimney-pieces, Fire-irons, and General Ironmongery, as cannot be approached elsewhere, either for variety, novelty, beauty of design, or exquisiteness of workmanship. Bright Stoves, with ormolu ornaments, £3 8s. to £33 10s.; Bronze Fenders, with standards, 7s. to £5 12s.; Steel Fenders, £3 3s. to £11; ditto, with rich ormolu ornaments, from £3 8s. to £18; Chimney-pieces, from £1 8s. to £100; Fire-irons, from 3s. 3d. the set to £4 4s. The Burton and all other Patent Stoves with radiating hearth-plates.

GASELIERS in GLASS or METAL.—The increased and increasing use of gas in private houses has induced WILLIAM S. BURTON to collect from the various manufacturers in metal and glass all that is new and choice in Brackets, Pendants, and Chandeliers, adapted to offices, passages, and dwelling-rooms, as well as to have some designed expressly for him; these are ON SHOW over his TWENTY LARGE ROOMS, and present, for novelty, variety, and purity of taste, an unequalled assortment. They are marked in plain figures, at prices proportionate with those which have tended to make his Establishment the largest and most remarkable in the kingdom—viz., from 12s. 6d. (two-light) to £23.

DISH COVERS and HOT-WATER DISHES, in every variety, and of the newest and most recherche patterns, are on show at WILLIAM S. BURTON'S. Block Tin, 19s. the Set of Six; elegant modern Patterns, 35s. 6d. to 49s. 6d. the Set; Britannia Metal, with or without silver-plated handles, £3 2s. to £6 8s. the Set of Five; electro-plated, £9 to £26 the Set of Four; Block Tin Hot-Water Dishes, with wells for gravy, 12s. to 30s.; Britannia Metal, 22s. to 80s.; electro-plated, on nickel, full size, £9.

TEA URNS, of LONDON MAKE ONLY. The largest assortment of London-made TEA URNS in the world (including all the recent novelties many of which are registered) is on sale at WILLIAM S. BURTON'S, from 30s. to £6.

BEDDING MANUFACTURED on the premises, and guaranteed by WILLIAM S. BURTON.

FOR BEDSTEADS, WIDE.	3 Feet 6 Inches	4 Feet 6 Inches	5 Feet.
Best Straw Palliasses	£ s. d. £ s. d. £ s. d.		
Best French Alva Mattresses ..	0 13 6 0 16 0 0 18 6		
Best Cotton Flock Mattresses ..	0 18 6 1 2 6 1 6 6		
Coloured Wool Mattresses	1 1 6 1 6 0 1 10 6		
Best Brown Wool Mattresses ..	1 7 0 1 12 6 1 15 0		
Best Brown Do., Extra Thick ..	1 11 0 1 17 6 2 0 0		
Good White Wool Mattresses ..	1 19 0 2 9 0 2 17 0		
Extra Super Do. Do.	2 17 0 3 13 0 4 1 0		
Good Horse Hair Do.	2 5 0 2 18 0 3 6 6		
Extra Super Do. Do.	5 1 0 3 18 0 4 10 0		
German Spring Hair Stuffing ..	3 8 6 4 4 0 4 18 0		
Extra Super Do.	4 5 0 5 8 0 5 19 0		
French Wool and Hair Mattress for use over spring	2 17 0 3 15 0 4 7 0		
Extra Super Do. Do.	3 11 0 4 9 0 5 0 0		
Feather Beds, Poultry, in Good Tick	1 16 0 2 7 0		
Do. Do. Grey Goose, in Bordered Linen Ticks	3 2 0 4 2 0 4 13 0		
Do. Do. Best White Do. in Best Linen	4 14 0 6 8 0 7 7 0		

Feather Pillows, 3s. to 10s. 6d.; Bolsters, from 6s. to £1 9s. 6d.

Down Pillows, from 10s. 6d. to 17s. 6d.

Blankets, Counterpanes, and Sheets in every variety.

PATENT IRON BEDSTEADS, fitted with Dovetail Joints and Patent Sacking on Castors, from 11s. to £1 4s.

Ornamental Iron and Brass Bedsteads in great variety, from £1 4s. to £45 5s.

FURNITURE, in complete suites for Bedroom, of Mahogany, Birch, Fancy Woods, Polished and Japanned Deal, always on show. These are made by WILLIAM S. BURTON, at his Manufactory, 84, Newman-street, and every article is guaranteed. China Toilet Ware in great variety, from 8s. 6d. Set of five pieces.

CUTLERY WARRANTED.—The most varied assortment of TABLE CUTLERY in the world, all warranted, is on sale at WILLIAM S. BURTON'S, at prices that are remunerative only because of the largeness of the sales.

IVORY HANDLES.	Table Knives, per Dozen.	Dessert Knives, per Dozen.	Carvers, per Pair.
3½-inch Ivory Handles	12 6	10 0	4 9
3½-inch Fine Ivory Balance Handles	17 0	13 0	5 6
4-inch Ivory Balance Handles	19 0	15 0	5 6
4-inch Fine Ivory Handles	27 0	20 0	8 0
4-inch Finest African Ivory Handles	34 0	27 0	12 0
Do., with Silver Ferules	42 0	35 0	13 6
Do., Carved Handles, Silver Ferules	55 0	45 0	18 6
Nickel Electro-Silver Handles	25 0	19 0	7 6
Silver Handles, of any Pattern	84 0	54 0	21 0
BONE AND HORN HANDLES.— KNIVES AND FORKS PER DOZ.			
White Bone Handles	11 0	8 6	2 6
Do., Balance Handles	23 0	17 0	4 6
Black Horn-Rimmed Shoulders	17 0	14 0	4 0
Do., Very Strong Rivetted Handles	12 0	9 6	3 0

The largest stock in existence of plated dessert knives and forks, and of the new plated fish-eating knives and forks and carvers.

PAPIER MACHE and IRON TEA-TRAYS,—An assortment of TEA-TRAYS and WAITERS, wholly unprecedented, whether as to extent, variety, or novelty.

New Oval Papier Maché Trays
per Set of Three from 20s. 0d. to 10 guineas. || Ditto Iron ditto | from 10s. 0d. to 4 guineas. |
| Convex-shape ditto | from 7s. 6d. |

BATHS and TOILET WARE.—WILLIAM S. BURTON has ONE LARGE SHOW ROOM devoted exclusively to the display of BATHS and TOILET WARE. The stock of each is at once the largest, newest, and most varied ever submitted to the public, and marked at prices proportionate with those that have tended to make his Establishment the most distinguished in this country. Portable Showers, 7s. 6d.; Pillar Showers, £3 to £5 12s.; Nursery, 15s. to 32s.; Sponging, 14s. to 32s.; Hip 14s. to 31s. 6d. A large assortment of Gas Furnace, Hot and Cold Plunge, Vapour and Camp Shower Baths. Toilet Ware in great variety, from 15s. 6d. to 45s. the Set of Three.

CLOCKS, CANDELABRA, BRONZES, and LAMPS.—WILLIAM S. BURTON invites inspection of his Stock of these, displayed in two large Show-rooms. Each article is of guaranteed quality, and some are objects of pure Vertu, the productions of the first Manufacturers of Paris, from whom William S. Burton imports them direct.

Clocks, from 7s. 6d. to £45 0s. 0d. || Candelabra, from | 13s. 6d. to 16 10s. 0d. per pair |
Bronzes, from	18s. 0d. to 16 16s. 0d.
Lamps, Modérateur, from	6s. 0d. to 9 0s. 0d.
Pure Colza Oil	4s. 6d. per gallon.